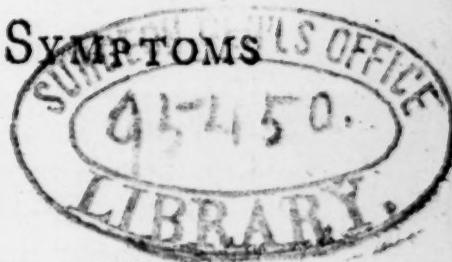


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ON THE
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A NEW ESSAY ON THE Venereal Disease, AND METHODS OF CURE; Accounting for the NATURE, CAUSE, and SYMPTOMS OF THAT MALADY.



By J. BECKET, M. D.

L O N D O N:

Printed for the Author, and sold by J. WILLIAMS,
Bookseller, in Fleet Street; and J. DIXWELL in St.
Martin's Lane, near Charing-Cross.

1765

Sketch of the C O N T E N T S,

IN this Discourse will be found, a Number of most valuable Quotations, that have (with great Pains) been collected from Antient and Modern Authors; some of which were written upwards of 300 Years ago. From those Antients, as well as from the most eminent Moderns, it is proved, (and its Reasonableness clearly demonstrated) that the treating this Disorder agreeable to the Intentions of Nature, and to the Opinions of the greatest of Men, must be in a Manner quite out of the common Road of Practice: together with Remarks on the present Methods of Cure, shewing the ill Consequence of strong Purging, Mercurial Preparations, Injections, Astringents, &c. &c. *With an Account of a new Medicine discovered by the Author, its Comparative Excellence with other Remedies fully considered, and explained.*

Also some useful and highly Necessary Reflections, on those vile, illiterate, and baneful People, who pretend to cure this Disease, in which their ignorant, and infamous Practice, is clearly detected and expos'd.

And further is added, some beneficial Inquiries into the Nature and Virtues of the published Medicines now most in Use, for the Cure of this Disease; their Operations examined and fairly considered.

Lastly, Some Thoughts are offered, on the too frequent Imputations, respecting empirical Practice.

In short, the Whole throws a Light on the Venereal Disease, quite different from the Maxims established by Custom, and from what is now the present Opinion. It is delivered in an easy and familiar Manner, being principally intended for the Perusal of Persons afflicted with this Disorder; and also for such as have been ill cured of it; which may easily be known by observing the Opinion of Dr. PETER SHAW, Physician to his Majesty, viz. " That frequently flying Pains, Head-
" aches, and other Symptoms, occasioned either by
" the Mercury, or the Relicks of the Distemper, often
" continue after a supposed Cure of the Infection.

T O

Mr. P O T T,

SENIOR SURGEON OF

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

S I R,

WHEN I reflect on the many Advantages I reap'd during the Time of my attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital; and the many Honours you daily gained, by not only proving yourself a most able Master in your Profession, but in the Treating of those Patients who were so happy as to be under your Care, (to your Glory will it ever be remembered) that at the same Time you was relieveing their Afflictions by your well known Skill, you evidently sympathized with them in all their Pains and Troubles; each Word, each Look and Action, so blended with good Nature, conveying a true fellow-feeling for the Distresses of Mankind, that the Unfortunate almost forgot their Afflictions, Praises from their Mouths are continually heard when your Name is mentioned, and when favoured with your Presence, Smiles of love, comfort, and gratitude, are evidently seen on their Countenance, even through a Countenance distorted with the most agonizing Pains.

Surely this is the Character of a truly great and good Man; yet, Sir, give me leave to add, it is no more than Thousands and

DEDICATION.

and Tens of Thousands will affirm ; — I say, when I reflect on such great Singularities, it is impossible for me to hesitate one Moment to whom I should dedicate this Essay ; and if there should prove one Hint, Remark or Maxim, that meets with your Approbation, I shall think myself amply rewarded for my Pains ; for as to pleasing the World, I confess I should just as soon hope for grand Events from Impossibilities.— As an Author, your great Merit has long been acknowledged, and those Works you have obliged the Public with, have, by the best of Judges, been received with the greatest Respect. Your Treatise on Ruptures has done more Honour to our Profession, than any Work yet Extant of its Kind ; as through the whole every Sentiment plainly appears to be founded on Reason, Experience, and sound Judgment ; from such Qualifications the Afflicted may with the greatest Reason hope for Redress, even though long fallen a Sacrifice to Despair, particularly when they recollect, that to those Qualifications, is joined an almost unequalled Humanity, or Brotherly-Love to Mankind.

I am,

SIR,

With the greatest Respect,

*Your much obliged Friend,
Red-Lion Square.
May, 1765.*

And most obedient humble Servant,

J. B E C K E T.

T H E

P R E F A C E,

*Proposed to convey a few Hints to the Reader,
before he peruses the Essay.*

I AM not unacquainted that I must undergo Censure ; the World either has or will take the Liberty to criticise ; this gives me not the least Concern ; as by the following Discourse I hope to serve my Fellow-creatures, will neither be checked in my Practice, nor even contracted into Limits. I expect to be thought very singular for Opposing the Methods in general Use, and indeed acknowledge my Deviation, but at the same Time, beg leave to observe, and in short hope, that to every impartial Reader, I shall evidently prove that the treating the Venereal Disease agreeable to the Laws of Nature, and the Opinions of the greatest of Men, both Ancient

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tient and Modern, must be by Methods quite out of the common Road of Practice. As this Work is in some Measure chiefly intended for the Perusal of my Patients, or such as are, or have been afflicted with Venereal Infections, I have delivered the whole in as plain, easy, and familiar Manner, as possible ; purposely avoiding the ambiguous Terms, &c. known only by the Faculty ; I have also industriously avoided such Expressions as must hurt a modest Ear, (as far as the subject would allow) and yet have endeavoured to keep up to the full Sense and Meaning of the Discourse ; and hope it will be found that my Sentiments there advanced, are not mere Conjectures, but founded on Reason, Experience, and the Laws of Nature. As I have always prefered sincerity to Eloquence, so I should be more proud to be esteemed the Author of one useful Proof, or plain Demonstration, than all the fine-spun Hypotheses that compose the Works of the most eminent Authors ; and I can justly say, with Dr. *Lobb*, that my Design in Printing this Book is not to reflect on any Gentleman of the Faculty ; there are many Physicians and Surgeons in the British

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British Nation, and in this Town in particular, deservedly celebrated for their great Knowledge in their Professions. Therefore let it be understood, when I say the Practice in Use, I mean that in general Use, consequently those that are of different Sentiments from myself, cannot have the least Reason to imagine I have a personal Aim at them, or intend to lessen their Reputation. But if the Principles and Rules, &c. I have recommended to the World, should bring any mistaken and hurtful Methods of Practice into Discredit, I ought not to be sorry, but rather to rejoice, because the Event will be happy for Mankind ; for none can justly suffer in their Honour, for rejecting Customs in Medical Practice, when they have been proved not to correspond with the true Curative Indications. And I must add, that if by submitting myself to the Censure of others, I should have the good Fortune to excite some more masterly Pen to improve the Art of Curing this Disease, it will much augment my Pleasure and Satisfaction, as I shall thereby be, in a great Measure, instrumental in conveying a greater good to my Fellow-creatures.

b

And

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And further joining my Sentiments to those of a favourite Author, I proceed, that to be at a Certainty, how to cure a Disease that fills us with the most painful *Sensations*, requires our utmost *Diligence* and *Care*. But no Man can be so, that is not acquainted with the *Animal Oeconomy*, and the Operation of a Medicine upon the *Fluids*; and altho' I am one of the least (amongst many) that are capable of an Undertaking of this Nature, yet as I do not hereby pretend to be wiser (only perhaps, a little more laborious) than the rest of my Brethren; so I hope they will pardon me, if by great Application and Care, I can inform both myself and them, of somewhat we have at present, but a confused Idea of: and if they will please to give themselves leisure to read through, and consider every *Part*, before they censure *any*, I hope they will not think their Time ill spent, if they find it pleasant, entertaining, and tending to the Assistance of Mankind; although I know it is *impossible* to write, so as to please every Person. Yet to the Judicious and Unprejudiced, I flatter myself, it may be found acceptable.

B.M.A.

In

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In the Course of this Essay, I have inserted a Number of Quotations that are abstracted from Authors of undoubted Credit, which I imagine, will have much greater Weight with the Reader, than any Thing I could singly offer in Support of this Hypothesis. And as, agreeable to the Observation made by a valuable Author, I do not think it any lessening either to me or the Book, therefore in order to anticipate any malicious Reflections, frankly own, that divers Things herein contained, are Hints and Gleanings from other Authors ; and I think every Man does the same, that writes to any good Purpose ; altho' all are not so ingenuous as to own it as I do. But I hope I may truly say, that my Assistance does not come from the Field of the Sluggard, or Fool ; not from uncultivated Ground, or barren Soil, but from Authors of good Authority, the Sentiments of whom I have gathered together with no little Pains. And if any living Author takes it ill, that I have sucked Honey from any Flower of his, I hope I have therein done him no Injury, and indeed, have probably only done by him what he has done by many others.

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Certain I am, no Man is without Errors, and I wish I knew all mine ; to excuse many of which, I am under the disagreeable Necessity to beg great Lenity from the Reader, more particularly, when I inform him, this Work is a hasty Publication ; it consisting of Observations, which have been made from Time to Time in my Extensive Practice in the Cure of the Venereal Disease. These were taken as kind of Minutes, on which I made such Remarks as I found necessary; and to these are added, those Sentiments from such great Men as favoured the Method I have found absolutely necessary to establish. Now to collect, dispose, and place in a regular Order, the above Manuscripts, required some Time and Attention. But in Opposition to this, an ill State of Health, and my whole Time nearly engrossed in the Attendance on my Practice, has prevented the Discourse being dressed in that necessary Apparel ; therefore, is obliged to appear in the World, loaded with the Expressions of Inaccuracy Tautology, Irregularity, &c. &c. Indeed it may be asked, why some intimate Friend was not consulted, whose Time would have admitted him to have prevented those Circumstances ?

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stances? To which I answer, my Reason was this, that at the same Time they were removing the Exceptions, I was apprehensive, the real Sense and Meaning of the Work, would in some Measure, suffer an Alteration, or at least be so expressed, as might perplex the Reader which way to determine. Therefore I was fully of the Opinion, that it was better to publish it to the World, even under those Disadvantages, than risque any kind of Alteration, that might embarrass that Mode of Practice, which I here affirm to be the only safe and effectual One, that ever was, or can be made Use of, except the Disease should change its Nature, which we have little Reason to suppose that it will.

Now as this Discourse (I foresee) is to go through a severe Penance, whatever the good Critics, or the capricious Cavillers are pleased to say, I have only to beg of them, that the whole Load may rest on myself, (well knowing, the Weight can be of no Consequence to me) this I mention to prevent any Insinuation: that those of the Faculty with whom I am particularly intimate, were concerned in this Publication; it is true those of the greatest Eminence have seen the Manuscripts,

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scripts, and were pleased to approve of the Publication. But I here solemnly affirm, that no Person has been concerned either directly, or indirectly, by adding or diminishing any Sentiment or Expression through any Part of this Essay. Among a Number of Objections to this Work, the following probably may be One, that I have exposed the Profession too much, by which it is made too cheap. But they will do right to consider, that tho' such Persons as are, or have been infected, may by Reading this Book, be a Judge whether they are perfectly sound or not, yet the Cure ever remains in the Hands of the Faculty; for as to the Intruder and the Illiterate, that has no Education, nor any Notion of the Profession until he reads this, it will be of no more Benefit to him, than if it was wrote in Hebrew. Another Objection may be raised, against my not taking Notice of every published Medicine, as I have done several: the Reason was this, there not being any in general Use, therefore not worth the least Notice. The diet Drink, Dr. *Leak* mentions in his Advertisements, having slipt my Memory, shall just observe, I have proved it to be very Innocent, having similar Effects with the Decoction of Sassa-Parilla. I also take this Opportunity to mention the Peru Drops, sold in *Holbourn*; they are much the same simple and absurd

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Medicine, called the Jesuits Drops, or if any Thing a worse Composition.

I flatter myself this Treatise will be found acceptable, to such of the Faculty as practice in the Country, many of whom are totally unacquainted with the Particular Nature of the Venereal Poison; and perhaps the Ease and Plainness of the Stile, may render it still more useful, as every ingenious Man is not so happy as to have had an Academical Education, and yet may however, have Learning enough to qualify themselves for some one Branch of Phyfic. These too often Practice by Custom and Receipts, without rightly understanding why, and the Manner how Medicines ought to operate, to expell this Disorder, and the more so, as they have but little Practice in the Curing of it.

If another Objection should offer, respecting my not making known the Medicine I have so much extolled; let the Reader observe the Reason I have there given, which, to a sensible Man, will always appear sufficient. And dare believe, on the Whole, it may be allowed, I have taken much Pains to trace out the Nature and Cause of that Distemper, I have now treated of; it was a Study I early in Life proposed, and always had a determined Resolution, to arrive to an accomplished Method of Curing it. I recollect

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lect an Observation made by the late Ingenious Mr. *Nourse*, in the Year 1756, being then Senior Surgeon of *Bartholomew's Hospital*, having just been visiting one of the Wards appropriated for the Cure of Venereal Patients, that if the Gentlemen of the Faculty would take more Pains in the Cure of those Venereal Patients, that come under their Care, he was fully persuaded the Hospitals could not be crowded with such miserable Objects, nor would the Town swarm with such Numbers of illiterate Fellows who vilely pretend to cure that Disease. This Gentleman was certainly Right in his Sentiments; the Consequence of ill Cures is scarce credible; for where it happens so in some particular Constitutions, it in Time becomes next to an Impossibility ever to irradicate that cursed Poison.

About a Month ago, as I was going up *Ludgate-Hill*, I saw a Man, who I immediately remembered being in the Hospital, and at the Time I mentioned Mr. *Nourse's* talking of this Disorder, this Man being then a Patient, and in the most shocking Situation. I should not have recollect'd him, but the Circumstance of his having but one Leg, and one Arm, struck my Eye immediately; and his Face being much deformed with the Distemper, made me the more

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more certain he was the sam Person ; and therefore directly called to my Servant to order the Coachman to stop, and got out of my Chariot, to Question the Man respecting the Disorder : I well remembered his being salivated several Times, and that he was discharged out of the House, pretty well ; but he informed me it soon returned, and that he had been under almost every eminent Practitioner in Town and Country, and had since been salivated six or seven Times, but still the Symptoms after a little Time returned : I offered to order him some Medicines, but he told me he was determined to take no more, as he found it would kill him, therefore the sooner he was dead, the better. He was now so infected, that several of his Bones were quite rotten ; and he stunk so, that it was with Difficulty you could stand near him.

This proves the dreadful Consequence of ill Cures ; that Man having been cured (as he supposed) five Years before he applied to the Hospital, and always declared he had caught no new Infection, and indeed, there were Reasons sufficient to prove he could not.

To end this Preface, lest I tire the Reader's Patience, I shall only add, that as no Man is without his Enemies, so I suppose I have some. But my Consolation is, that

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their Malice is Impotent, and wholly without a Cause ; therefore, if by unparallel'd Falsehoods, they strive to murder my good Name in the Dark, yet of these I ask no Quarter, nor shall I take any Notice of their Malicious Reproaches ; for I should esteem their Applause as a Scandal and Slur to my Understanding, as I devote this Book wholly to Men of Integrity, Learning, Candour, and Humanity. What I have just said, and the following, with which the Preface ends, are wrote in Conjunction with the Sentiments and Mode of two Eminent physical Writers.

I now publicly declare, I am very indifferent as to what Cavils are made against this useful Essay, it not being wrote with a View of Interest respecting the Sale, therefore its Enemies will be greatly disappointed, if they endeavour to depreciate it on that Account, but if through worse Motives, they will not make me angry, as I have the Happiness to be out of the Reach of such kind of Envy, consequently they will gain no more Victory, than if they were fighting with the Air, or their own Shadows ;

For in vain will flow the Venom from the most poisonous Quill.

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As for low Censures,

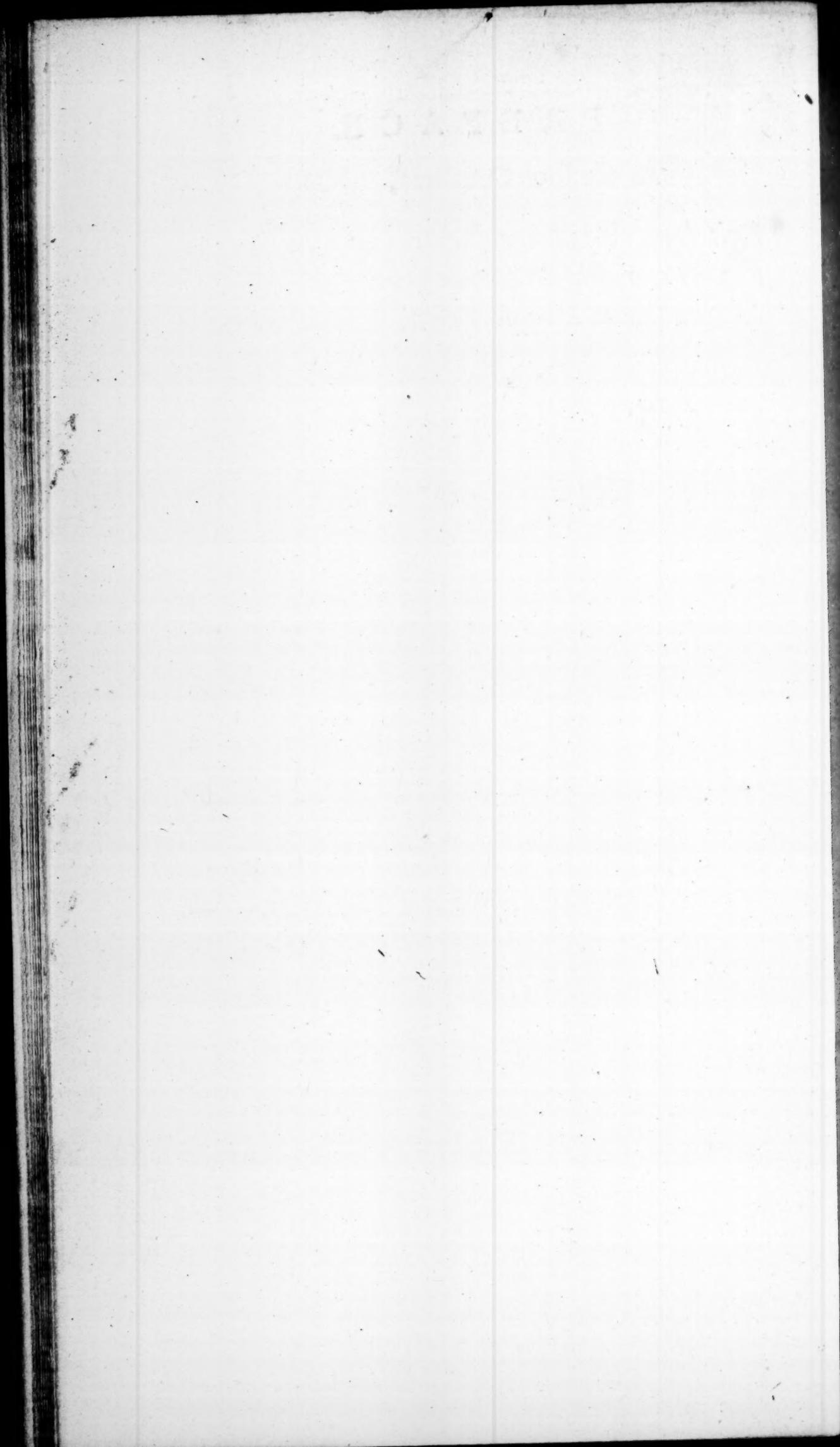
*Erit loquacis pulchra Proterviæ
Vindicta, risisse & sereno
Magnanimum tacuisse Vultu.*

I am,

The Public's humble Servant,

J. B E C K E T.

Errata, from Page 64, leave out the Running Titles *On Diuretic Medicines.*—
Page 56, by an Error of the Press Part of a Quotation is re-inserted:



C H A P. I.

*Contains a short Account of the Origin
of the VENEREAL DISEASE.*

THE great *Boerhaave* says, it is a Disorder wholly singular in its Nature, and perhaps bears no Resemblance to any other. It is, alas ! too common : it is the Fire of Death ; more to be feared, and by far more dreadful than Death itself." With these Words he opens his Lectures on this Disorder. The Variety of Opinions to be found in Authors who have treated of this Disease, apparently shews that they had discovered no certain Means to direct them to an incontestible Period of its Origin ; they indeed are pretty general in the Opinion that it was imported from *America* by *Christopher Columbus*, in the Year 1493, he having performed his Expedition from those Parts. Several Authors have appeared in Defence of the Antiquity of the Venereal Disease, the last of whom was Mr. *William Becket*, of *London*, Surgeon,

in three Dissertations published in the 30th and 31st Volumes of the *Philosophical Transactions*, in which he has, with great Diligence, got together whatever could be collected from the *English Antiquities*, both in Print and Manuscript, that favoured his Opinion. In the Dissertation first printed in the 30th Volume of the *Philosophical Transactions*, No. 357, *Anno 1718*, he labours to prove, that a Venereal Gonorrhœa was known in *England* some Ages before the Year 1493, under the Names of *Ardor*, *Arsura*, *Incendium*, &c. in *English*, *Brenning*, or *Burning*; whereof indeed there is frequent mention made by the *English Historians*; and in Confirmation of this Opinion, he produces several Authorities, whereof some are earlier and others later than the Year 1494; from which he concludes, that this Disease was communicated from infected Women to Men, and that in the most antient Times. However, be this as it will, it is not worth ingrossing the Reader's Time about, as it is not a Matter of the greatest Importance to know from what Part of the Globe it had its Birth, or from what exact Time to fix its Origin.

It

It is certainly enough to know the Nature, Cause and Symptoms (which by the bye every Physician and Surgeon ought to make himself thoroughly acquainted with) the Knowledge of which can only point out a rational Method of cure.

C H A P. II.

*Contains a short Information of the Nature
of Venereal Infections.*

HERE follows a short Description of the Disease, agreeable to the Opinion of an antient Author in the Year 1566. Upon the first Appearance of this Malady in Europe, the latent Poison, before it broke out in other Symptoms, betrayed itself in an uncommon Indolence, spontaneous Lassitude, (a) Sense of Weight in the Limbs, an almost continual Inclination to Sleep, wasting of the Habit, Loss of Vigour, Perturbation of the Mind, melancholy, and a timorous Disposition, Paleness of the Face, Blackness under the Eyes, Alteration of the whole Vifage, Heat in the Hands and Feet,

4. *Nature of Venereal Infections.*

with a great many Symptoms more. To these, in most Patients, succeeded a (c) Caries of the Pudenda, producing small corrosive Ulcers of a red Colour, which after disappearing returned again, and sometimes in twice their former Number; the Skin became deformed with rough, unequal Crusts, and nasty Pustules, the Eruption sometimes wearing the Shape Satyriasis, sometimes of the Elephantiasis, or Lichen, or Teraminthus, or Psora. But before this, there used to spring up a Crop of very small Pustules, which grew by Degrees, till at last they reached the Size of a Nut. These Pustules shewed themselves capable of a great Variety, for some were larger, others smaller, some dryer, others more moist. Sometimes their Colour was livid cineritious, sometimes pale, or of a faint red; after they broke, they incessantly threw out prodigious Quantities of a fœtid Liquor, resembling a Mucilage; and to the Pustules succeeded Ulcers of the phagedænick Kind, which devoured the fleshy Parts to the very Bones; nor could the hard Consistence of the Bones themselves defend them from Corruption and Erosion. The acrid

acrid Humours falling upon the superior Parts, sometimes perforated the Tongue, sometimes exulcerated the Palate and Fauces, and at other Times destroyed the Uvula and Tonfillæ. Some had their Lips, others their Noses, or Ears, or Eyes eroded; and a great many were intirely deprived of their virile Parts. In some, gummatous Humours pushed out, resembling the Athetoma, or those Concretions formed by the Gums of Trees; these would swell to the Size of an Acorn, Egg, or Apple; and when opened, poured out a whitish Mucor, which however was not extremely fœtid. The Joints were affected with Tophi, the Arms particularly, and Knees, with hard callous Tumours, while the Scapulæ, Sternum, and Tibiæ were tormented with violent Pains; in some the Pains were continual, in others they intermitted, but in both Cases they were most acute in the Night. Sometimes the Pains were complicated with Pustules, Ulcers and Tumours, sometimes unattended with any of these. The Patient lost his Appetite and Rest; his broken Slumbers were haunted with frightful Dreams; he burnt with an almost continual

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nual Heat, and was tormented with an aching Head. Besides, he suffered the last Violence of every Passion that most disturbs the Mind. In the mean Time, what he Spit was thick and frothy, his Sweats were fœted, his Stools dry, with some Mixture of Mucor, and his Urine reddish, oily and thick, with an unequal, turbid, broken Sediment.

But when this Disease had now raged in *Europe* for about 30 Years in this shocking and deplorable Manner, it began somewhat to change its Shape, either as to its Train of Symptoms, or the Order of their Succession. All these Things we learn from the Writings of that Age. In this Manner did the Disease proceed, till (on the first Infection) the Pustules for the most Part were gone, the hard Tumours grew less frequent, and the Pains more mild ; besides, the first Symptoms became Buboes, Ulcers, Worts, and a Gonorrhæa, &c.

A short Sketch of Dr. Boerhaave's Sentiments relative thereto.

1st. He says, the first Property of this Disease is, that the Infection is so easily propagated, that, in spite of all Precautions, the whole Constitution may be subdued by it ; nevertheless, we are totally ignorant of the essential Qualities of this Disorder ; we only know that it discovers itself by certain Phænomena, which being collected, I shall present to you, so far at least as may distinguish it from any other.

2d. When a Man is infected, there is no Part of his Body, however found, that can be said to be secure ; nay, the whole may be contaminated ; and such is its Power, that it will render the whole Body weak and feeble in a Manner almost incredible to those who have never experienced it.—The momentary Contact of warm Bodies is sufficient for its Propagation.—As a small Spark is capable of kindling a mighty Flame.

3d.

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3d. The true Contagion will destroy the most pure and healthy Body it affects. I have seen a comely young Gentleman, in whom a little Ulcer so propagated itself, that not even a Part of the Body was left free.

4th. It hath therefore the Property of inverting all the good Humours. I have seen a young Man who had only a little Ulcer in his Nostrils, which could not be cured by any of the Physicians either in *England*, *Germany*, or *France*, where he had travelled, yet at that Time was otherwise found and clean; nevertheless his whole Face, Eyes, Ears, &c. were afterwards affected.

5. From hence, if I may so speak, there is in this Contagion, an innate Power of Propagation, on which Account many suppose it to be of the Animal Kind, and produced from a Congeries of Animalcula, which being received into the Body as a proper Nidus, there propagate themselves with infinite Velocity. This Opinion they think

think the more probable, because it may be cured by Mercury, an anthelmintic Remedy. I never saw any thing like this, notwithstanding I am sensible Mercury has that Property ; if venereal Ulcers on the Skin are not well cured, they affect the whole Body and if the Sanies is applied to any Part of a sound Person, he will be infected thereby.— This Infection dissolves the solid Parts, the Viscera Cataloges and Bones, even those of the Thigh and Cranium, reducing them to a *Caput mortuum*, or friable Substance ; a Quality which can be attributed to no disorder besides ; nay, the very Corruption it produces becomes the Medium of its further Propagation.

6th. The Matter is so very fine and volatile, that if it be applied outwardly to the Surface of the Skin, it will penetrate thro' it to the part it covers. The whole Body is defended by the solid resistable Cutis, as with a Coat of Mail ; nevertheless, the warm venereal Poison, applied to this Tegument whilst in a State of Warmth, will insinuate itself into its Substance, dissolve its Continuity, and melt it down to a ve-

C nereal

nereal Matter. It is therefore evident, that these thin, volatile and infectious Particles, penetrate the Skin, destroy its Texture, and produce Ulcers on its Surface.

7th. But let no one think that what is visible in this Disease is that very identical Poison, since it is only the Effects thereof thrown out on the Surface of the Skin. For as the thin, volatile, infectious Particles at first insinuate themselves into this tunic, so from thence they are diffused throughout the Body ; which evidently appears from the following Case.—Two Friends being at the *Hague*, happened to lie in the same Bed, the one clean, the other infected by the Lues ; he that was found was soon alarmed by some malignant Ulcers on that Side which lay next to his Bed-fellow ; knowing himself to be free from that Distemper, he went to a Physician, who after Enquiry, informed him, that he was infected by the close Contact with a diseased Body.

With the greatest Respect to our learned Author, and with a due sense of his superior

rior Judgment in this Disease above all other Writers, yet I beg Leave to observe, that though indeed I have known a few Instances of some remarkable Effects which have happened from a Contact of Bodies, as related above ; — nevertheless, this proves no more than the Possibility of it : For Experience daily shews those, who have a Number of venereal Patients under their Care, that such Cases very seldom happen ; on the contrary, it is well known that Persons frequently lying in Bed with the Infected, are not the least hurt : Nor indeed can the Infection be so communicated, but in the most confirmed and deplorable Cases, where the Skin is filled with venereal Eruptions, and the Person so infected perspiring very freely ; even then it is chiefly confined to Children and tender Bodies.

Dr. *Astruc*, well known for his Publications on the Venereal Disease, speaking of its Nature, says — “ It is a Kind of Distemper which cannot be spontaneously bred in our Climate by any error in Diet, or other depraved State of the Non-naturals ; but is produced and perpetuated here by a

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Sort of morbific Fuel originally brought from Abroad, which is of a lasting Nature; or rather is constantly renewed.

2d. That this morbific Fuel, or Seeds of the Distemper which is called the venereal Poisón, though it cannot by any Means be generated in our Climate, yet if it be conveyed into the Blood, though in the smallest and most indiscernible Particles, it does there easily increase, multiply, and gather Strength.

3d. On the other Hand, that this Poisón shall sometimes lie lurking in the Blood for several Years, without any apparent Symptoms; and yet that it shall be preserved there so entire, as to be capable of exerting itself when Occasion offers, and frequently with so much Violence as to produce the most fatal Effects: Which is a Circumstance that some of our Ancestors have discovered in the Poisón flowing from the Bite of a mad Dog; but of more Certainty found to be true of the venereal Poisón from abundance of Instances. Again he says;

“ The

“ The Venereal Disorder in *Europe* is solely propagated by Contagion ; there are therefore conveyed from the Diseased into the Sound, certain Seeds of morbific Matter, which being introduced into a sound Body, in the smallest Quantity and by indiscernible Ways, and by Degrees increasing in Bulk, Form, and Efficacy, sooner or later are able to infect and corrupt the whole Mass of Humours ; and these Seeds of the Disease are usually, and not improperly named, the Venereal Ferment, Venom, or Poison.

This Method of Propagation is not peculiar to the Venereal Disease, but common to all other contagious Distempers. So the Small-Pox may be communicated by taking a small Portion of corrupted Matter out of the Pustules, and instilling it into an Incision made in the Skin. The Plague, by Matter flowing out of the Buboes, and dropt into a Wound made in any Animal. The Itch, or Tetters, by the Ichor discharged from a diseased Skin and adhering to a sound one. Hydrocephalus, by the Admission of the Saliva of a mad Dog into the

Part

Part that is bitten. The Indisposition occasioned by the Tarantula, by the Humours which that Spider conveys by its Bite into the Skin ; as by so many Ferments peculiar to each Disease. But as in different Ferments there is a different Nature, whereby they are enabled to bring on the several Diseases they occasion, so must the venereal Venom have its peculiar Disposition ; which is by so much the more noxious, as the Disease it produces is more grievous than others, and which therefore it the more concerns us to be acquainted with, as we may thereby apply a more certain Remedy to the Disorders which it causes.

C H A P. III.

Of the Cause and Symptoms.

1. **W**HEN the pocky Virus is thoroughly settled in the Parts it fixes on, the pungent acrid Salts insinuate themselves into the little Ducts of the nervous Papilla of the Urethra ; but the Irritation of the Parts, the Fluxion of the Hu-

Humours, and the Corrosiveness of the Virus, melt down and shake off the soft mucus Liquid that defends the Urethra from the Sharpness of the flowing Urine, or the Sensation of fabulous Particles in their Passage. Thus the venereal Salts stimulating the nervous Fibres of the Urethra, induce Fluxion and Pain, which disposes the viscid Humour that defends the Passage to be abraded and washed away, leaving the uncovered Parts free to the Sharpness, which accounds for the Heat, Smarting in making water, &c. &c. which is generally experienced in this Disease. From whence it appears, that whatever is capable of promoting the Secretions of the urethral Glands, will the soonest and most effectually contribute to the Relief of this Complaint, the virulent Salts, by these Means, being disengaged from the Parts they adhered to, are dissolved and carried off by the Urine; and as they were the immediate Cause of the Heat and Pain excited by that Fluid, upon their Removal these Effects follow: Therefore Diuretics must be the most proper to answer this Intention, Medicines whose Power act intirely on the urinary

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Passage. The Sentiments of the best Authors agree, not only with regard to the Clap as a Disease, but with respect to the Running, considered as a critical Discharge; for Diseases are those Forces and Helps which Nature raises in our Constitutions to expel and drive out of our Bodies whatever should be offensive and troublesome. By this we see when any thing inherent in the Constitution is troublesome to the Functions of the Body, the Solids and Fluids act in Concert to shake it off; and the Efforts made on these Occasions are the immediate Cause of all Diseases. Thus the venereal Poison fixing on the Ducts of the urethral Glands, is the immediate Cause of that Disorder called a Gonorrhœa, or Clap; the stimulating, corrosive Salts of which Poison, galling and fretting those and the nervous Parts, excite Heat of Urine and a Chordee, the almost inseparable Symptoms of this Disease. But Nature, ever intent in removing from her the Cause of Pain and Disturbance, sends a Flux of Humours to those Parts to disengage them from the Acrimony of the Virus, and wash it away, and drain it off through the Urethra; and there-

therefore the Running produced from this Flux of Humours must be looked on as a critical Discharge.

Having accounted for the Operation of the venereal Poison, the Production of the Running, and that it is a critical Discharge, it remains now to prove that the Virus is carried off by the Running. We have been informed that the Cause of that Running is owing to a Fluxion of Humours, excited by the Irritation and Stimulus of the pocky Poison ; this Glut of Juices relaxing the excretory Ducts of the urethral Glands, gives them a free Passage to the Virus, Part of which they dissolve from Time to Time, and carry off through the Urethra; and this continues so long, till the whole Poison is either washed away, or a Stop put to the Discharge by some Accident. The Contagion going off in this Manner, will be evident to every Person who makes use of my Method of Cure, which acts chiefly in scowering and cleansing the urinary Passages, and expelling the Poison effectually by this Means ; while all other Contrivances I ever yet heard of, conduce

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either

either to dry up, repel, or drive the pocky Matter into the Blood.

The Infection communicable from one Sex to the other, is a Demonstration that the Medium which conveys the Poison, serves as a Vehicle to discharge it; and *Boerhaave* looked upon the Running as a Security against the worst of Symptoms; which it could not be, if it did not drain off the venereal Taint.

A Quotation in this Place from the great *Boerhaave* will set us in a clear Light, respecting this Opinion. He says, speaking of the pocky Virus, 1st. "It is a stimulating Virulence which may infect the whole Body. 2d. Nevertheless, all that is discharged in a Gonorrhœa is not virulent, but as it were the Tears of Nature, to dilute and wash away the malignant Matter; now the whole Cure consists always and only in the Imitation of Nature, by fitting those Passages for a more ready Expurgation; for this Complaint being a true Catarrh, there is no Necessity to disturb the whole Body by the Exhibition of I know not what Mercurials;

“ curials ; and I must confess, that I have
“ often reflected with Detestation on the in-
“ direct Practice of Surgeons who thus trou-
“ ble Nature, whilst all that is needful is the
“ Expulsion of the infecting Matter from the
“ Part affected. We may see that the first
“ Writers (for Instance, the great *Fallopious*)
“ have openly said, if you would rightly treat
“ a Gonorrhæa, give place to Nature ; for
“ when it flows freely there is no Danger ;
“ the whole Art consists in expurging the in-
“ fected Matter, by procuring it a free Pas-
“ sage through the dilated Vessels. Let us
“ therefore follow Nature as did the ancient
“ Physicians, who, when they saw venereal
“ Ulcers break out on the Body, assisted Na-
“ ture by prescribing Sudorifics ; which ne-
“ vertheless are of no Use in a Gonorrhæa.
“ Our Indication then is the Expurgation of
“ this Disorder by the Flux ; which is not
“ all Virus, but the Vehicle through which
“ it is carried off; this should be done in the
“ easiest Manner possible. If a Man discharge
“ an Ounce of this Matter, not a thousandth
“ Part of this is wholly Poison; a very small
“ Quantity of the Virus generally adheres to
“ it, and is thereby carried out of the Body.

“ But how is this Expurgation to be promoted? 1st. Not by impelling the Poisom to any other Part of the Body; 2d. Nor ought we to endeavour to promote a greater Flux of Matter for its Expulsion; 3d. Nor must we seek any other Way for its Discharge. 4th. Our Business is to procure a sufficient Quantity of thick Matter, for then the Cure is easy: 5th. Nor are we to admit a Thought of diminishing it, till that is clearly indicated by the Appearances. 6th. It ought to flow freely, and not return again to the Place from whence it issued; to this we should be very attentive, lest it should recede through the Membrane of the Urethra into the cellular Substance. Further, we should be careful lest the Matter be retained. When we are sound, scarce ten Drops a Day is secreted; but when the Lacunæ are excited by a virulent Stimulus, two Ounces may be discharged in a Day. If this matter is retained, it becomes acrid, the Infection multiplied, and the Discharge increased. It must therefore be discharged; in this the whole Cure consists.—Is any Physician capable of attracting this Virulence from the

Emis-

“ Emissaries of the Lacunæ, without this
“ Matter furnished by Nature ; it is cer-
“ tainly not to be accomplished by any In-
“ jection yet known ; for thereby, it is ra-
“ ther repelled ; Nature alone can effect it
“ by affording a competent Quantity of
“ Matter, which proceeding from within,
“ dilutes and washes away the poisonous
“ Stimulus,

“ 1st. We ought to be apprized how
“ very small the Quantity of this subtle
“ Poison is, that so strongly contaminates
“ when first received, and that produces
“ such bad Effects ; for the smallest Parti-
“ cle, or Atom, insinuating itself into the
“ Urethra, generates this Disease.

“ 2d. We should also consider what is
“ the mucous Matter generated by the
“ glandular Fabric of the Lacunæ. That it
“ is a Vehicle, afforded by Nature for the
“ Discharge of this adhæsive Poison ; for as
“ soon as this is effected, it returns to its
“ natural State and Quantity ; nor can a
“ Gonorrhæa be cured till that is com-
“ pleted. If stopped by Astringents, the
“ Matter is retained, the Pænis feels heavy
“ and

“ and uneasy, Ulcers arise and the Disorder
“ is increased. Whatever, therefore, is pro-
“ posed from Exficcation, is of no valuable
“ Consequence ; for if the least Particle of
“ the Disease is retained, Matter will still
“ continue to flow ; as I have learned from
“ many Experiments.

“ 3d. We are also to consider, that by
“ how much more the Virulence abounds
“ above the Vehicle ; by so much more
“ severe every Symptom will appear, both
“ in the Patient and in the ejected Matter ;
“ for when the Discharge is very yellow,
“ green, or bloody, the Virulence is great ;
“ but when it is white (though in large
“ Quantity) without Pain, itching, or Heat
“ of Urine, the Malignancy is less, and
“ sooner cured. It is worthy our Obser-
“ vation, that Men who have been fre-
“ quently diseased, are cured with greater
“ Difficulty ; for in them this Discharge
“ hardly ever ceaseth, although it is not yel-
“ low, because the dilated Orifices of the
“ Lacunæ are affected by a kind of habitual
“ paralytical Diathesis, by which a Cure
“ becomes very Obstinate.”

CHAP-

C H A P. IV.

The Methods of Cure considered.

IN speaking of the Methods of Cure in common Use, I shall first mention that of bleeding, which by some Practitioners is thought to abate the Inflammation, &c. This I boldly affirm to be a pernicious Method, being an Evacuation directly opposite to the Intentions of Nature, and if often repeated, is the most likely Means to vex the Patient that can be thought of, particularly if assisted with strong mercurial Purges.

The celebrated *Handley's Words* will convey my Opinion to the Reader; “ As to bleeding in this Distemper, although once allowed of by some Physicians, I hope I may have the liberty of other Authors, to dissent from a Custom which I do not think good, without incurring the censure of Heterodoxy in Practice. It is not always running with the Crowd that indicates a Man's being in the right, nor his being alone in any

any Hypothesis, that proves him in the wrong."

The famous *Blagny*, Surgeon in ordinary to the French King, in his Observations on this Disease, says, Sect. II. Chap. II.
" Some Practitioners, whose Method we must by no means follow, ever begin the Cure with bleeding in the Arm, by which Means the venereal Matter will be attracted or driven more inwardly into the Body, and therefore you must by consequence suspect it as dangerous. Others bleed boldly in the Foot, which also has the same Effect, or Precipitates the Matter by Defluction into the Testicles; for which Reasons, you ought to abstain from bleeding in either Part, &c.

Dr. *Cockburn* has these Words on bleeding: " The Error in bleeding to abate the Inflammation has been very unhappy; for that Practice has not only failed the Physicians, but it has sometimes brought in the Pox, as some, of themselves, have confessed. More of these Mistakes are often hid from them, and more luckily from their Patients." Again he says,

" Besides,

"Besides, some Physicians have found that the Pox has often ensued after bleeding. The Reason of this Observation may be made appear from the Doctrine of Revulsion by bleeding, anciently acknowledged, and excellently well accounted for by the great Doctrine of the Circulation of the Blood."

Joannes Benedictus, a German, who wrote on the Venereal Disease, *Anno 1550*, says blood-letting was dangerous.

Joannes Paschalis, a Swede, *Anno 1594*, gives his Opinion that bleeding was bad, and must not be ventured on.

Leonardus Botallus, of Este, *Anno 1565*, condemns bleeding.

Coradinus Gilimus, *Anno 1497*, says he has known many in this Disease who have been much the worse for bleeding.

I come next to consider the Effects of strong Purges for the Cure of venereal Infections, which I do boldly affirm to be Male-practice. Long Experience in an almost incredible Number of Cases has thoroughly proved to me that purging in a Clap

is no more a certain Remedy than Salivation alone is in a Pox; that both are destructive to the human Constitution, and that a compleat Cure may be had for each Ailment without recourse to the one or the other; if we enquire into the Nature of Purges, and the Manner of their Operation, we shall find that all Cathartics of the vegetable Kind, are hot, acrid and pungent; those of the mineral, sharp and corrosive; that both act by a Stimulus irritating the Fibres of the Intestines, and excites them to discharge their Contents; and unless the Purge is very strong, it runs off in those Evacuations, and the Jumble ceases; but if it lays first hold of the intestinal Glands, and corrodes their Ducts, Juices are turned off that should supply other Secretions, which will certainly embarrass the animal Oeconomy; for the Increase of one Evacuation is the Diminution of another, and a Deficiency of Humours in any particular Part must be injurious; and this is so conspicuous, that if any clap'd Man will but give himself the Trouble to observe, he will find that the Day he takes Physic, the Heat of Urine and Chordee will be much increased; for

Purging

Purging lessening the Quantity of Urine, hinders the venereal Salts from being wash'd off and dissolved so plentifully as they would, which makes their Combinations stronger, and gives them more Power to be troublesome. I have seen many Instances where a mild Clap has been treated with violent Purgatives, and the Symptoms have abated, consequently the Patient deemed well; but after a few Months, a Shanker or Bubo appeared, which are the sure Marks of a confirmed Pox. This is the grand Objection I have to Cathartics, as they certainly drive the Humours toward the Centre, and consequently cause an Absorption of the venereal Poison into the Blood; for if we allow the Matter in a Clap to be impregnated with the Virus (as that is beyond all Doubt) is it not a preposterous thing to purge? Since Purging apparently abates the Running, and diverts it from the Channel where it would go off with Safety, to Places ever attended with Danger. Dr. Boerhaave orders great Moderation to be observed in the giving Cathartics; as he observes the Body (when too much purged) is deprived of its Nourishment, the Vessels are too

much dilated and dibilitated; and if this Evacuation is continued to Excess, all the Humours of the Body may be discharged. That purging and mercurial Discharges have a Power to divert the Virulence from a Place where it fixes on (is well known to every Physician and Surgeon) and seduce it into the Blood; therefore is it not reasonable to believe, that those Remedies will have the same Effect when given in a Clap, and drive the Contagion into the Habit? for the Laws of Nature are inviolable with regard to the Operation of Medicines, which answer their Ends constantly by the Effects, let the Intention of the Prescriber be what it will: But admitting the Infection may be carried off in Evacuations by Stool, has not the Virus infinitely more Chances to vitiate the Juices this way, and make the Cure much more tedious, than if at Liberty to pass through the Urethra, the Channel appointed by Nature for its Expulsion? Moreover, I don't know any thing more destructive to the Constitution than Purgings, particularly as it is usually insisted on in the Cure of a Clap.—It causes Sickness, hurts the Stomach, impairs the Strength, lays the

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Foundation for Gleets and seminal Weakness, steals the Juices off in colliquative Fluxes, especially in delicate and hectic Habits, and induces a Lentor into the Blood of the most robust and best Constitutions, which disposes them to Fevers and many other Disorders : I can with Truth assert, that I have known these, and many other Mischiefs, arise from Purging, and am certain that Numbers have been undone by it. But the Opinions of several eminent Writers will have much more Authority to depreciate their Reputation in the World than any thing I can say to their Prejucice, if I can shew from them that they condemn their Use.

“ As old an Author as *Cælius Aurelianus*
“ finds fault with Purges, by observing they
“ hurt the Stomach, and destroy the ner-
“ vous System ; that they are of poisonous
“ Qualities, and waste and consume the
“ Constitution.

“ *Reverius* takes Notice, that in Purging,
“ the Patient should be stout and robust,
“ at least of middling Strength ; for the
“ weak and lax Habits easily melt away.

“ The

The great *Boerhaave* says, “ I never re-
“ collect, without the greatest Anxiety, the
“ fatal Trials I have made of Cathartics,
“ and the Number of Patients I lost in my
“ first Practice by those Methods”.

That excellent practical Physician, Dr. *Thomas Sydenham*, observes, that “ purging Medicines have something poisonous in their Nature.”

Mr. *James Handley*, Surgeon, well known for his valuable Works, says, “ Strong Purging in this Malady (as is now the common Method) is certainly male-practice, such Purges not being capable either to eradicate the Infection, or to abate its Virulence, because the Venom lies quite out of the Way of such Operations, and instead of Help, does Mischief, by weakening the Solids,” &c.

The Opinion of Dr. *Daniel Turner*, of the College of Physicians in *London*, respecting purging Remedies.

“ I can by no Means allow of that continued strong Purgation so customarily used with a Design of securing their Patients

"tients from the ill Consequences of the
"Infection, or changing the first into the
"second, which I am satisfied has brought
"on many obstinate Gleets, much harder
"to cure than the Pox itself."

He has also recommended the Words of Dr. *Quinsey*, as well worth the Remembrance of every Practitioner, *viz.* "That the common Practice by violent Purgations, as well as Mercurials, are mischievous, in so much as under a Pretence of eradicating Malignities, they so weaken the Parts, that it becomes difficult to restore them to their proper tone again."

Dr. *Cockburn* says, "The essential Quality of purging Medicines by which they are distinguished from all other, is their stimulating Power, with which some of them are induced to a very great and undetermined Degree. Now if any of these Medicines (the more stimulating especially) are administered in the Cure of a Gonorrhœa, they often produce an Inflammation in some Part; and even moderate purgative Medicines, or such as have

“ have a Stimulus to a moderate Degree,
“ being given when the Parts are already
“ inflamed : In either of these Cases, the
“ inflamed Parts become thicker, and their
“ liquor pass through them more slowly,
“ and thus occasion a Swelling of the Te-
“ sticles, the Urethra being inflamed by
“ purging Medicines ; or when the Urethra
“ is already inflamed by the Corruption of
“ the Gonorrhæa ; because if either the U-
“ rethra itself is thicker, or the Coats of the
“ Lacunæ are straighter, in that case the
“ Orifices of these Ducts become straighter,
“ and the free Discharge of their Liquor is
“ impeded ; and therefore the Liquor it-
“ self being pent up in its Ducts, swells
“ them ; they compressing the next Lacu-
“ næ, interrupt the Liquor in them, and so
“ on by the Vasa Diferentia, which are
“ swelled to the Testicle itself and likewise
“ swell the Blood-vessels, and other Vessels
“ that are commonly found in the Testicles.
“ Now as this is what is only necessary to
“ produce a Swelling in the Testicles, it is
“ now manifest how purging Medicines
“ produce the Swelling, as also which of all
“ that Tribe most readily produce that Ef-
“ fect.

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Lauranius Phrysius, of Metz, who wrote
in the Year 1532,—Advises (by all Means)
very gentle Purging.

Gulielmus Rondeletrus, of *Montpelier*, who wrote *Anno 1560*.—Orders the most gentle Purges.

Dionysius Fontanonus, of *Montpelier*, who wrote on this Disease in the Year 1540.— Recommends the most gentle Remedies, and condemns strong Purging,

C H A P. V.

The Effects of Mercury considered.

ICome now to consider the Effects of Mercury on the Constitution, which every judicious and honest Man must admit has for Years past been the greatest Bane to Mankind of any one Medicine in the whole *Materia-Medica*.—Nevertheless, I would not have it imagined that I mean to expunge it out of Practice; far be it from me; on the other hand, I am sensible it is a noble Medicine, and will do more than is in the Power of any other; but, as

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too often it is the Case, that the greatest Helps prove the greatest Mischiefs through Mismanagement ; so it is with Mercury : For I aver, that indiscriminately given, as that Medicine now is, it is of much worse Consequence than the Disease itself. The ancient Physicians never gave it but with the greatest Caution, and then it was in old and confirmed Cafes, and where all other Means had failed ; and indeed there were some that never depended on it for an absolute Cure. In short, whatever is the Use of it in a confirmed Pox, it certainly ought never to be given in a Clap ; and this is acknowledged by all Physicians and Surgeons that have taken Pains to be thoroughly acquainted with this Disorder ; yet, strange as it must seem, Mercury alone is given the Patients nine times out of ten ; and because it is the modern Custom, therefore looked on as the Sheet Anchor in the most violent Complaints. And what is still more strange, is the too often flying to that Medicine, to remedy the very Evil it has just brought on, as I have too often seen in Cases where violent Inflammations have seized

feized the Part with Chordees, &c. occasioned by giving Quantities of Mercury.

I hope the Sentiments of the following Authors, both ancient and modern, will at least prove I am not alone in this Opinion.

De Blegny is of Opinion the Disease may be cured by easy Means without Mercury. But see his own Words :

“ This disease may be taken off by pure Nature, and cured by very simple and easy Means, without obliging the Patients to a close Confinement and nice Regimen. But some ignorant, cunning and ambitious Men, are far from granting that it can be cured by the mere Efforts of Nature; neither will they acknowledge that sometimes it may be very easily cured by Art : For some Physicians are intirely devoted to common Experience and their own Practice, and Chirurgeons have such a Regard to their own Reputation, that they never dare to propose other Means of Cure than such as are usual, lest they be damned by others who know not their Effects and Virtue. In one

Word, both consult their private Interest so much, that they will not prescribe a Remedy, though never so cheap, which doth not cure but after a considerable Time, long Confinement, and a strict Regimen. These are the Men who assure their Patients, that they cannot be cured but by Mercury, though their distemper be the very same whereof I now treat ; and thus the sick Person must be unnecessarily fluxed.

Jacobus Cataneus of *Genoa*, who wrote in the Year 1516, observes, that *Dioscorides* says, Mercury kills by its Weight, often bursting the Intestines.

Pliny too calls it a Poifon ; it is also condemned by many ancient Authors, because it hurts the Nerves and Joints, producing Palpitations and Tremours.

Nicolaus Poll, Anno 1536, gives us an Account of three thousand *Spaniards* being cured without Mercury.

Petrus Andreus Matthiolus, of *Sienna*, who wrote in the Year 1536 ; orders great Care in the Use of Mercury.

Ulrichus de Hutton, a German, who wrote in the Year 1519, speaking of himself, says, for my own Part, I struggled with the Venereal Disease for nine whole Years, in which Time I underwent eleven Salivations without Success, but was afterwards cured by other Methods. This old Author is strongly recommended by Dr. Boerhaave.

Wendelinus hoc de Brackenaw, Anno 1514, orders the greatest Caution in the Use of Mercury.

Joannes Baptista Montanus, of Verona, who wrote his Discourse on the Venereal Disease in the Year 1550; an Author in great Esteem among the Antients; his Words are, speaking of Mercury, "As for Mercury, it indeed represses the Disease, but it returns after with greater Violence than ever; though sometimes it will lie smothered for several Months, nay for four, or even six Years. Besides, Mercury always effects the principal Parts; it occasions Palsies, Tremours and Stupors; and I knew one who upon its Use became Epileptic. Besides, Mercury so spoils the Complexion,

plexion, that the Skin never afterwards recovers its former Colour.

Prosperous Borgarutius, of Padua, Anno 1566, speaking of the ill Effects of Mercury, says; “ By the immoderate Use of Mercury, the Organs of Generation are so affected, that the Patient often loses his prolific Faculty : This I have known happen to infinite Numbers of both Sexes.

Joannes Fernelius, of Amiens, in the Year 1555, wrote his Discourse on this Disorder, where he observes that Mercury has very bad Effects on the Nerves and Joints.

Benedictus Victorius, of Faenza, Anno 1551, tells us to take great Care in the Use of Mercury.

Antoninus Fracantianus, of Vicentia, Ann. 1564, orders the greatest Caution in the Use of Mercury.

Dr. Harvey, among the Causes of the Scurvy, reckons the taking mercurial Preparations, or using them externally.

Dr.

Dr. *Huxham* says, “ A long or large Use of Mercury will turn the whole Mass of Blood into a mere watery Colluvies.”

Mr. *Abraham Gordon*, Surgeon-Major to the third Regiment of Foot, in his Letter to the Physicians of *London*, relative to a Preparation of Mercury, says, “ Before I conclude, I must observe, that neither I, nor any of the regimental Surgeons who use the Medicine at the same Time with me, have ever considered it as a proper Cure for a Gonorrhæa Virulenta ; always understanding by the Term *Lues Venerea*, a confirmed Pox ; without comprehending the virulent Running, which, if not attended with other Symptoms, is cured without any Mercury at all.”

Boerhaave, after recommending the most gentle Methods, says, “ Away then with Mercurials and strong Lixiviums ; for by their Use I have seen twenty Instances where a good Gonorrhæa has terminated in the worst Inflammation and Priapism in the Space of twenty-four Hours.”

And

And again he says (speaking of giving some gentle Purgatives) “ I do not mention Mercury, because I never permit that Medicine to enter into the Body, unless the Cure does not yield to other Remedies ; 1st. Because it has something so incorrigible, that it almost always leaves some sad Remains of itself in our Fibres, where our greatest Vigour lies ; and thus brings on untimely old Age ; and as the mildest Medicines ought always to be exhibited where the Disease is light, so Mercurials should not be prescribed in a Gonorrhæa.

Astruc's Opinion of Mercury.

“ Says, Mercurial Preparations by the Acid Spicula, wherewith they are stuck round, twitch and vellicate the Parts of the Stomach, and thereby injure and weaken it. For which Reason, such Persons as have been long accustomed to the Use of Internal Mercurial Medicines, are generally subject to Disorders in their Stomachs.

“ Because from the Dose that is given, the Particles of Mercurial Medicines inwardly,

wardly taken, must be thrown into the Blood through the Mouths of the Lacteal Vessels, in a very small Quantity. As therefore it from hence appears, that the Stomach, Lungs, and other Viscera, may be injured by Mercurial Preparations, inwardly taken, and that their Use is never absolutely safe: So neither are they ever able perfectly to correct the Blood, nor expell the Poison, when deeply rooted, nor consequently Cure an inveterate Case of the Venereal Disease.

C H A P. VI.

WHÈREIN the ill Consequences of Injections and Astringent Medicines are considered, and endeavoured to be reasonably accounted for.

The ill Consequence of Injections, &c. considered,

I have seen the most unhappy Consequences attend the Practice by Injections. The Gonorrhœa indeed is thereby soon suppressed, but that is only done by inducing an *Œschar* on the Orifice of the Lacunæ; whence the Flux of that Matter is impeded, which is

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the Vehicle for discharging the Venereal Virus. Under these Crustaceous Eschars, Ulcers are generated. I have frequently observed, that all those that are Astringent, Corrosive, or Consuming, are equally Pernicious here, as fatal Experience has often taught: for the same Reason, Corroborants must be avoided, because thereby the Orifices are diminished from a Constriction of their Fibres; on this Account Alum is to be rejected; the Lust or Saceh Saturni dissolved in Water (by way of Injection) constitutes almost every Arcanum, and are in general Use: Vitriolum Martis, and Vitriolum Cupri, are however the Principal. To them we may add Mineral Chalybeats, called Acidulæ, of which the German Spa, and Tornnelet, are the most famous; in these the Vitriol of Iron abounds; others make Tinctures by infusing Balsam Capivi, Balsam Peru, Myrrh, Mastic Olibanum, with Saffron, &c. in Spirits of Wine: With this, diluted, they wash the affected Parts, by which the Flux is diminished, but the Disorder increased, for which cause, Boerhaave says, speaking of Injections and Astringent Medicines "These things were rejected
" by the ancient Physicians, to whom they
were

" were as well known, as they are to the
" Moderns. Many use Decoctions made of
" the most Astringent Materials, as Cinque
" Foil, Tormentil Root, sharp pointed
" Dock, and Rhubarb itself, (which being
" mixed with Honey of Roses is used in In-
" jections) but as they are mixed with a
" large Quantity of Honey and Water,
" relax more than Astringe; all these Things
" I reject.

" We have before remarked, what was
" observed by some of the antient Writers,
" that Persons in the Pox, on whom a Go-
" norrhæa broke out, were thereby cured of
" the Lues. This new Appearance, they
" did not at first know how to cure, as we
" are told by *Antonius Brassavolus*, who
" also calls the Gonorrhæa, *a Lues Venerea*;
" and *Alexander Petronius*, a most skilful
" and eminent *Italian Physician*, says, that
" a Gonorrhæa let alone, cures itself, if
" not interrupted by contrary Medicines;
" especially when unaccompanied by the
" Appearances which indicate great Malig-
" nancy, as yellow or brown Matter, Pain,
" Heat, &c. from all which it is evident
" that Astringents act in a Manner directly

44 *The ill Consequence of Injections.*

“ opposite to the Design of Nature. I
“ would now ask, how any one dares pre-
“ sume (after Nature has produced this Sa-
“ litary Discharge, in order to prevent its
“ access into the Body) to suppress it, by
“ constringing the Passages through which
“ it flows ?” Dr. Arstruc also rejects the
Practice by Injections.

Dr. Cockburn's Opinion, speaking of Astringent Medicines.

“ It is manifest that the corrupted Run-
ning receiving a Check, from Astringent
Medicines, will flow into the Blood, poi-
son it, and produce the Lues, with Symp-
toms of different Degrees of Malignity, as
the Stoppage is early, total, or in Part;
and the Difference of a Partial and Total
Stoppage is so considerable, that Misfor-
tunes of the first Kind are Twenty-times
more easily retrieved, than of the last,
when there is a total Stoppage, and Sup-
pression of the corrupted Matter.

Dr. Paxton says, That the Running be-
ing stopt by any Means whatever, the Blood
soon becomes poisoned, as evidently appears
by

by the Variety of succeeding Symptoms, which will sooner, or later, break out in very different Forms.

De Blegny, mentioning the Care which ought to be used in treating Venereal Diseases, says, ‘No body can be Ignorant how important it is, that these Distempers should be treated with the greatest Circumspection; because in Men, the Fibres of the delicate Membrane, at the Extremity of the Urethra, which serves to obstruct an Involuntary Loss of the Semen, are sometimes cut and corroded, either by the Acrimonious Matter of the Flux, or by the Violence of those Medicines, which Ignorant Practitioners use in their Injections. Besides, an unreasonable Stop being put to the fluent Matter, must necessarily cause a Pox or a Bubo, or at least fall upon the Testicles, from which it is not easily taken off. These Observations are widely different from those of Quacks and Empyricks, who having their Designs calculated solely for their private Interest, never inform their Patients of those Things I have just now mentioned, knowing them to be directly contrary to those pernicious Maxims which they impose

impose upon the Easy and Credulous. This Author further says, speaking of Venereal Bubos, after observing that Care should be taken to bring forth the Matter, to digest and thoroughly cleanse them, “ There are nevertheless a Sort of Men, who to obtain a Name, though by the most indirect and unusual Means, have had the Impudence to affirm that there is no Necessity to open such Tumours. It were to be wished, that Patients were well informed of the Certainty of this Truth, that they may avoid and discourage such a damnable Practice and Knavery.

Physicians and Surgeons must take Care to inform the World, that the greatest, the safest, and least known of all the Secrets of the Art of curing Venereal Diseases, is a right Use of the *Materia Medica*, from which, joined with Experience, a Method both justifiable and successful may be introduced. But this is to be expected only from Men of Knowledge, Experience and Discretion; for in Physic, as in all other Liberal Arts, Theory must lead us to the Practice, and we may make many Experiments

ments to no Purpose, if we know not how to improve them.

The Learned *Sydenham*, has endeavoured to set us in a clear Light respecting what kind of Remedies we are to hope a Cure from.

This Gentleman wrote his Letter on the Venereal Disease about the Year 1680, wherein he tells us of the shocking Effects of it; before the Gonorrhæa, or Running first appeared: his words are, "When a Person was seized with this Disorder, it presently contaminated their whole Mass of Blood, with dreadful Pains in the Head and Limbs, and shewed itself in Ulcers in various Parts, and that if it had continued with the same Celerity, it would have destroyed Mankind in a few Ages:" and also informs us, that it was a hundred Years before that Time that the Running first appeared; therefore it is now about 183 Years since its first Appearance. Nature, being always Industrious to discharge what is hurtful to the Habit of the Body, produced the Gonorrhæa, or Running, as an Outlet, to carry off the Venereal Poison; which so well answered her Intentions, that it checked its destructive Career, and obliged it to put on a milder Countenance.

Now

48 *The ill Consequence of Injections.*

Now as it plainly appears, how dreadfully this Disease afflicted Mankind, by the first Infec-
tion, being generally mortal, till this favour-
able and happy Symptom came to their Re-
lief. Then must it not seem strange, and one
would imagine impossible, for Remedies to
creep into general Practice, directly repug-
nant to this seasonable Relief. It is evident
Nature has pointed out the Cure, and it is
the Busines of every Practitioner to assist
her in her Efforts.

The inserting more Quotations, and the
enlarging on the ill Consequence of Astrin-
gent Remedies, that is, on the Means that
repell the Venereal Poison into the Blood,
whether by Medicines, Injections, &c.
would Answer no other Purpose than swell-
ing the Discourse, and ingrossing the Rea-
der's Time. Therefore to avoid an Imputa-
tion of that Nature, let it suffice to say, such
Methods are neither warrantable to God or
Man, being the most certain Means to de-
stroy the Patient's future Happiness, which
indeed must be obvious to all (even the
meanest Capacity) to be Male Practice.

Now

Now after considering the real Effects of the Methods in general Use, I mean Bleeding, strong Purging, Mercurial Medicines, Astringents, Injections, &c. I come now in the following Chapter, to examine whether Diuretic Medicines are not much preferable in the Cure of the Venereal Disease.

C H A P. VII.

C O N T A I N S an Account of Diuretic Medicines, with the Author's Reasons for preferring them to all other Means ever yet introduced in Practice; proving they, and they only, act agreeable to the Intentions of Nature, by assisting her to discharge the Venereal Virus before any other Part of the Body is injured.

The Operation of Diuretics explained.

Diuretics are Medicines, that dilute and attenuate the Blood and other Juices, disposing their more serous, and humid Parts, to go off in greater Quantities, through the Urinary Passages, and also to carry along with them

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them the Dregs and Impurities of those Fluids, as there are different Degrees of Strength in Purges. Diuretics likewise have several Gradations; and both from the most gentle Stimulus, may be increased to the Violence of a Caustic: hence appears the Necessity of being well acquainted with their Nature and Manner of Operation, lest what is given to abate an Inflammation, should be the Means of increasing it. —

The Diuretics proper on this Occasion, are of a Texture so loose and dissolute, that they mix most intimately with the Blood; and the Use of them for a little Time, so saturates the whole Mass, that if any Taint or Contagion has infected the Juices, or lies there lurking in the small Vessels, they immediately cause a Dissolution of their Virulence, and freeing them from their Viscidities, carry their Impurities off by gently promoting Urine, and moderately Increasing the perspirable Discharge.

The Famous *De Blegny* says, ‘ There is nothing more certain, than that Diuretics are so liquid and penetrating, that they may be communicated to the Mass of Blood,

Blood, be impregnated with the Humours they find in it, convey them off the Body, and precipitate them with the Urine.

Again he says, ‘ As to the Nature of the Remedies to be employed, it deserves to be considered, that the Inflammation of the Parts affected in a Gonorrhœa, can never be more effectually taken off, than by Medicines which may reach the Bladder ; and that the Impurity cannot be more directly and effectually thrown out, than by those Ways by which it was communicated. He afterwards observes, that very gentle Purgatives are sometimes necessary to be added to the Diuretics. Then he adds, that such gentle Methods are the only safe Cure, without being under a Necessity of using Mercury, which most Surgeons ignorantly give their Patients, either with their Purgatives or some other way.

We have seen the Words of the great *Boerhaave*, respecting the Nature of this Disease and Method of Cure, in the past Chapters of this Discourse; an Author, who is allowed to far exceed all others in his De-

criptions of this Disease; an Author, ever valuable, not only for being a great Master in his Profession, (whose words are standards for Medicinal Rules) but for his clear Appearance of Honesty and sound Judgment, which shine through all his works, not being calculated for private Purposes, or to serve any particular Class. On the contrary, the good of Mankind plainly appears to be the sole Motive for the Pains and Labour he continually went through.

It is a Fact not to be disputed, that no one Disorder which the human Body is liable too, has been treated on by such an infinite Number of Authors; nor is there any Disease that Opinions so evidently differ in. Mercury was found serviceable, and often cured in desperate Cases: But when introduced into frequent Practice on the other Hand, often was attended with the most fatal Consequences; we have seen that the most antient Physicians either condemn its Use, or order the greatest Caution therein: in short, they found the bad Effects, from bringing it into common Practice.

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But it is apparent, succeeding Practitioners either less regarded their Patients future welfare, or were too negligent to give themselves the Trouble to seek after easier Remedies.— Mercury soon became the Grand Medicine ; as with that Messenger, they were sure to have some Busineſs done ; either the Disease in Part, or wholly subdued, or (which is oftner the Case) both Constitution and Disease fall Victims together ; but a still worse Observation to make (and is what every honest Man will allow) is, that frequently after violent Salivations, where the Patient has been emaciated to a mere Skeleton, and has been deemed, cured ; no sooner has he recovered his former Strength and Flesh, than the Symptoms of the Pox have returned. However, I once more must beg leave to obſerve, that I do not mean to reject its Use in all Cafes of the Venereal Disease, any more than in other Maladies incident to the Human Species. This I affirm, that it is not required once in twenty-times where it is uſed. I was in Company the other Day with a very eminent Practical Physician, who was fully of Opinion, that Mercury being known by the

the Vulgar, occasioned its being of much more Hurt than Benefit to Mankind. This I have long been convinced of respecting Venereal Cases, having had ocular Demonstration of the most shocking Objects ruined and spoiled by having the Blood loaded with that Medicine; and this in the most simple Cases, which would have yielded to a few Doses of Manna and Salts, particularly if assisted with a Decoction of Marsh Mallows, or any emollient Diuretic Draughts.—After all, it is evident to any unprejudiced Reader, that a Method has been handed down from some violent Practitioners, that has now crept into general Vogue; with this Maxim, that Venereal Disorders cannot be cured without Mercury. You have before heard the Opinion of the greatest Authors on this Subject. I shall quote the famous *Blegney's* Sentiments respecting the common Treatment Patients suffer.

He writes thus : After mentioning the Advantage of easy and mild Remedies, “ Seeing then we may become successful, and procure such considerable Advantages by a sage and judicious Conduct, by those who

who apply themselves, particularly to Venereal Diseases, ought never to deny their Patients the Satisfaction of knowing the certain event of their Distempers, which are more or less easy to be cured according to their Degrees, and sometimes of that Nature, that they cannot be neglected without exposing the Patients to the greatest danger. Thus, by duly considering the Pox, they will be thoroughly convinced that it is owing to a Fermentation that has not continued long, and that the Increase of it must terminate in a more dangerous State; that the Symptoms of the second Degree are only the Effects of a subtil Matter, not yet disposed to adhere to any particular Part; that the Motion of the circulating Blood may be augmented by Nature only, or such internal Sudorifics, as are proper to facilitate the Separation of the Impurity that is then mixed with the Hemogeneous Parts of the Blood, that strong and often repeated Purgative Medicines may excite a Precipitation of the Venereal Matter. A Pox may be taken off by pure Nature, and cured by very simple and easy Means, without obliging the Patients to close Confinement and nice Regimen.

But

But some ignorant, cunning, and ambitious Men, are far from granting, that a Pox can be cured by the Efforts of Nature; neither will they acknowledge, that sometimes it may be very easily cured by Art. For, some Physicians are entirely devoted to common Experience, and their own Practice; and Surgeons have such a Regard to their Reputation, that they never dare to propose other Means of Cure, but such as are usual, least they be damn'd by others who know not their Effects and Virtue. In one word, both consult their private Interest so much, that they will not prescribe a Remedy, though never so cheap, which doth not cure but after a considerable Time, long Confinement, and strict Regimen.

These are the Men, who assure their Patients, that they cannot be cured but by Mercury, though their Distemper be the same whereof I now treat; and thus the sick Person must be unnecessarily flux'd, without any regard to the Sex, young or old, rich or poor, whether in a private or in a public Capacity, all are indiscriminately,

ly exposed to the loss of their Means, Honour, Employments, and Life itself.

Again he says, “ You are likewise to “ avoid the unaccountable Practice of those “ ignorant Pretenders, who advise their Pa- “ tients to undergo a Salivation, whenever “ they observe that Venereal Shakers are “ not soon cured, though there appear no “ sign of a Pox. But you may rely upon it, “ that after you have attained a right Me- “ thod of managing these Distempers, by “ Reading, Meditation, and a little Appli- “ cation, there are none of them, though ac- “ companied with the Pox itself, or with “ its Symptoms, which you may not cure ; “ and therefore you are, with all imagin- “ able Care, to avoid the creating unneces- “ sary Trouble to your Patients, or engaging “ them to undergo the last Remedy, with- “ out apparent Necessity.”

The same Author, in his Chapter on the possibility of curing a Pox without Mercury and Salivation, writes thus : “ Having con- “ sidered the Crisis of the Pox, as entire- “ ly owing to nature, I now come to dis- “ course, concerning those procur’d by Art,

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“ and which are excited by common Eva-
“ cuatives and such as are caused by Mercur-
“ ry. But though this Distinction be found-
“ ed upon most certain and undoubted
“ Proofs, yet it has not been hitherto gene-
“ rally received and approved; for most Part
“ of those who practice this Art, are rather
“ inclined to believe, that it is by this Mi-
“ neral only that a Pox can be cured, than
“ to apply themselves to make any farther
“ Trial : Nay, they are not only pleased to
“ persist in their Error, but they likewise
“ endeavour to induce others to embrace it,
“ though never so false, by damning all new
“ Discoveries, as Impostures, and unusual
“ Remedies, as poisonous; and whoever
“ undertakes to cure a Pox, by such Reme-
“ dies as are more easy and gentle than Mer-
“ cury; and by Ways that are more Natural
“ than Salivation, forthwith becomes the
“ Butt of Envy, and loaded with a thousand
“ Reproaches; at the same Time, those envi-
“ ous Ignorants, take occasion to prepossess
“ the Minds of their Patients, whom they
“ find to be easily imposed on, when they
“ are told some Things in Physic are myste-
“ rious;

"rious; for the very Imagination of that
"which may shorten life, is capable to
"fright every body."

After all, that a Medicine may be contrived, under the Quality of a Diuretic, that will cure this Disorder without the least Trouble to the Patient, I have experienced: it is now three Years since I began to administer it to my Patients; and do declare it has succeeded; even beyond my expectation; as my constant Method is, to keep regular Minutes of all Cafes that occur; and by what Means cured, (which in the abovementioned Time I find to exceed twelve Hundred;) can with certainty assert where the Medicine has succeeded, and where not. It was the Hints, or indeed rather the Directions we have from the ancient Physicians, which first put me on making Trial of some easier Remedy, at the same Time having the Advantage of a continual Number of Venereal Patients under my Care, that I was not under the least Difficulty to fix the Medicine, to a proper Degree of Strength, to be thoroughly effectual, and yet not the least weaken the Parts.—It has also another Ad-

vantage over the common Diuretics, which is very material, *i. e.* that in most Constitutions it keeps the Body gently open. On the whole, I have found it to answer *Boerhaave's Directions*, the Scope of which is obtained by a Medicine, that hath not the least Particle of Mercury in its Composition; nothing that requires Confinement, or any particular Management, so as to give the least Suspicion to the most intimate Acquaintance, nor the Restraints of any Kind; except indeed, from Excesses and Coition, (The latter ought by all Means to be avoided) as it operates by communicating itself to all the circulating Juices of the Body; and its Texture being loose and dissoluble, it mixes most intimately with the Blood; and in a few Days, so saturates the whole Mass, that if any Taint or Contagion has infected it, or lies lurking in the small Vessels, it immediately causes a Dissolution of their Virulency, and freeing them from their Viscidities, carries off their Impurities, by gently promoting Urine, and moderately increasing the perspirable Discharge; and as it pervades every Channel through which the Circulation flows, so it breaks through Cohesions and Obstructions, and carries its salutary

salutary Virtues to the remotest Parts; and yet is so innocent, it may safely and advantageously be taken by Women in their Pregnancy; and what justly gives a still greater Preference to this Medicine in the Cure of this Disease, is its suitableness to all Circumstances and Constitutions. It may be taken with benefit in a Fever, or any other inflammatory Disorder; and will be found a very effectual Remedy in the Gout, Scurvy, Rheumatism, and all other Cronic Ailments, where the Juices of the Body are foul and sify. I have also proved it of very great Use in removing those frightful Symptoms brought on by the too frequent Use of Mercury, and ill cured Claps; the taking it some considerable Time will entirely remove the Complaints, if the Constitution is not quite ruined; even then it will preserve the Patient from worse consequences, and make life much more comfortable. — The Fluor Albus, or Feminine Weakness, is a Disorder incident to Women; few escaping the Effects of it, and by a long Continuance is attended with many Evils, and often with the most fatal Consequences; the Cure of which must depend (as we find by a due Consideration

of the Causes and Effects) on such Medicines as have regard to the Degree of the Plethora, as the relaxation of the Vessels, so that whatever is capable of dissolving the Lentor in the Blood, and promoting the Circulation of the Fluids, of increasing the Secretions, and invigorating the lax State of the Vessels, must conduce to the Cure : That this Medicine will have these Effects, I have often proved, and do therefore recommend it as a powerful Remedy in this disagreeable Disorder ; having frequently succeeded when all other Means have failed.

I shall now purposely avoid saying more, respecting the Efficacy of this Medicine, which I call the Essence ; as it is composed of the principal Virtues of many Ingredients ; brought (by Distillation) into a little Compass, so small that twenty or twenty five Drops is the middling Dose, and so grateful to the Stomach, that it does not disagree with the most delicate Constitution. I say, I purposely avoid a Repe-tition of the good Qualities of these Drops, lest it should be thought Ostentation : And on the other hand, if the Reasons I have

have offered in favour of the Medicine in the Cure of these Disorders, are not esteemed sufficient to encourage its Use, let it speak for itself, and I dare affirm no other Recommendation will be required; as a Method of Cure, depending on the Laws of Nature and her Operations in the Constitution, despises the Assistance of the common Artifices, and requires no false Story to advance its Praise; no Lustre to set it off; no Voucher or Evidence to prove its Success: The Consideration alone of its Designs will be sufficient to recommend it to the World, because it will be obvious to all Persons, that it is founded on Reason.

Yet this I must beg leave to observe, that no Medicine can be better invented for thoroughly subduing the Remains of Venereal Poisons lurking in the Blood, as it may be taken any length of Time, without the least Alteration as to Regimen; and never is offensive to the Stomach, but rather creates an Appetite: in these Cases, it acts as an Alterative, which causes a Change or Alteration in the Blood and Juices; melting down and destroying the pocky Virus,

Virus, which is discharged either by Sweat, Stool, or Urine.

The Necessity, Care, and Caution, it behoves every Person to take, to endeavour to be thoroughly cured of that most infernal Fire, or Poison, and the great Reason every Person may have to be fearful of its not being subdued, when they have been once severely infected, or have been ill treated by ignorant Practitioners; we may learn from the following Observations of the several great Authors: to which is joined a very remarkable and most shocking Case.

Some Passages we find in the *Bibliotheca Anatomica Medica Chirurgica, &c.* from the most eminent Writers. And first *Musitanus* says, ‘ That it often happens in Practice, that after the Universal Pox is cured, there still remains a lurking Poison in some Part of the Body; as in the Caries or Gangrene of some Bones, in some Nodes or hard Knots, which admits of no Dif- solution, by the Action of Mercury.

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The Venereal Disease is not commonly Mortal ; there have been some who have had it 30 or 40 Years, and when they die, it does not so much proceed from this Disease as from some others, contracted by the Disorders and irregular Courses used in the Cure thereof, or the Alterations made by Time, and the Constitution or Habit of the Body. Besides, it too commonly happens, that the most Part of those who are in this Condition, do not suffer themselves to be treated as they ought to be ; some are backward because they have not Money enough to pay for their Cure ; others because their Business do not permit ; a third because they are in the Hands of such as have no Skill, or at least want Honesty, to compleat a Cure : there are some Bodies of singular Dispositions, that Mercury cannot produce the desired Effect upon them, notwithstanding all the precaution and Means that can be used. Therefore it often falls out, by Reason of these Faults or Impediments, that the Venereal Distemper is not cured, but only its Symptoms ; and that some of the Venereal Ferment does still remain in the Body,

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which

which in process of Time, lodges and intangles itself in the Humours in such a Manner, that Inconveniences afterwards ensue, which sometimes are not directly a Pox, though they have sprung from it as their proper Fountain : from thence it is that there are so many Scrophulous Tumours, so many old Ulcers, so many Gouts and Rheumatisms, so many Whites amongst the Women ; and in a Word, from thence arises the most Part of those Diseases, which we observe in Families, and which unhappily have only ordinary Means applyed to them, because their Source is concealed, and the Physicians themselves many Times dare not be inquisitive concerning their Original.

Prosperus Borgarutius, of Padua, Anno 1566, says, The Venereal Disease sometimes does not appear for some Months, or even Years, after the Contagion is received.

Bernadinus Tomitanus of Padua, Anno 1566, says, ‘ It was sometimes four, five or six Months after the Poison was received, before the Disease plainly breaks out, though I have known it discover itself by

‘ a Pain in the Prœputium the next Day
‘ after it was caught.’

Hieronimus Fracastorius, of *Verona*, wrote on this Disease in the Year 1530. “ This Disease at first did not break out immedi- ately, but would lurk in the Habit a Month or two, and sometimes four Months, before any real Symptoms appeared.”

Georgius Vella, of *Brussels*, *Anno 1516*, wrote to the same Effect.

A remarkable Account of the Venereal Poison lying conceal'd in the Blood for 17 Years.
This we have from Anatus Lusitanus,
Anno 1552.

These are his Words: “ A Person who was afflicted with this Disease, by the Means of a great many different Remedies, got so far rid of it, that he seemed to be quite well. Ten Years afterwards he married a very virtuous Woman, who within five Years brought him two fine healthy Boys; in the seventh Year she was delivered of a third Boy, who had Pocky

“ Eruptions upon his Skin. The Mother
“ continued all along in very good Health ;
“ only before her Delivery of the last Child,
“ she had some small Ulcers betwixt her
“ Lips and Nose, and after her Delivery her
“ breath grew Fœtid, and her Breasts were
“ so obstructed with coagulated Milk, that
“ she could not possibly give suck. Upon
“ this Account the Child was put out to a
“ Nurse, who in a few Days became infect-
“ ed, and had the same pocky Eruption with
“ the Child. She gave it to her Husband,
“ and to two Children of her Neighbours,
“ to whom she had offered her Breast ; and
“ they communicated the Disease to their
“ Mothers ; in short, within a Month, no
“ fewer than nine were infected. The Boy
“ lived only a Month, and the Father was
“ seized with a Fever, which cut him off in
“ six Days ; the Mother and the other Per-
“ sons infected, after the Use of many Re-
“ medies, recovered.”

De Blegny, on the Symptoms of the Pox, says, “ No less Ambiguous are the Symptoms which accompany the Pox in its second Degree ; for albeit, Spontane-

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"ous Weariness, Uneasiness, Itching in
the Skin, and sometimes shedding the
Hair, Tetters, Malignant Ulcers, Rot-
teness of the Teeth, and of other Bones."

To which may be added, Pains in the Head, wandering Pains in the Limbs, particularly in the Legs, which torments the Person most in the Evening; and frequently after warm in Bed; the Eyes are weak, and often run a limped Water; the Ears tingle, and Noises in the Head are often heard, which are exceeding Perplexing; Eruptions often break out on the Skin, and as often return again; a Hectic Heat attends the Afflicted, which generally increases towards Evening; a remarkable Dejection of Spirits is almost a certain Attendant; partly owing to the Disease, and partly to the Patient's dread of the Consequences. There are many more Symptoms which Indicate the Pox to be in the Blood: but these are sufficient to give Instruction to those who suspect it to be their Case. This therefore is sufficient to prove that the Venereal

nereal Poison when thought to be conquer'd, shall lie lurking in the Blood for many Years, without any manifest Hurt. Yet as soon as by any Accident the Temper of the Blood shall be altered and depraved, tho' there be no new Accession of Poison, the Disease shall, *Hydra-like*, revive, and speedily bring on very grievous Symptoms, which shall end in a confirmed Pox. Both these Particulars are certainly very strange, that so noxious a Poison should lie so long quiet, without doing any Mischief in the midst of the Blood, and be thoroughly mixed with it, and that so small a Quantity of Poison should be preserved entire in the Blood, which of itself is daily renewed.—And yet, neither of these Circumstances is peculiar to the Venereal Poison ; for the Poison which produces an Hydrophobia, may not only lie quiet in the Body for several Days after the Bite, but sometimes for several Years before it shews itself, and brings on the Dread of Water, and the other terrible Symptoms which attend it.

If we give Credit to the common Opinion, the Ferment, or Poison, which gives rise

rise to the Small-Pox, is brought with us into the World, and consequently lies lurking without Detriment for a very long Season, till an Opportunity offers of exerting itself, and producing sometimes most fatal Effects.

It may be asked, Why I came to be more acquainted with this Disease (or at least have endeavoured to be so) than some other of my Brethren of my Profession: To which I answer, that my seeking more deeply into the Cause, Nature, and Cure of Venereal Infections, was owing first, to my generally having a good Number of Patients under my Care: Secondly, my extensive Practice in curing Fistulas and Piles. Fistulas in particular, soon convinced me of the Necessity there was to find out some safer and more easy Method of curing the Venereal Infections, as those that were occasioned (which are not a few) by the Venereal Disorder, are of the worst Consequences: And thirdly, I may justly add to these, that it has cost me much Pains and Trouble to know the Nature of its Disposition and Temper so well as I do; it is full

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of Deceit and Artifice ; no Mimick has more Power over the Features of his Phiz, or can throw himself into a greater Variety of Attitudes, than the Pox has of Appearing in the Form of other Maladies, and assuming the Shapes of different Ailments : but as the Mimick has always something of the Monkey in his Constitution, a Degeneracy from Humanity, so the Pox has a peculiar Virulency, some certain Signs to distinguish it from other Disorders, notwithstanding the strong Resemblance of the Symptoms ; and if you treat the Mimick as a Monkey, and the Pox according to the Nature of its Disposition, you may easily keep them within bounds ; but if you suffer them to get a Head, you cannot so readily shake off those troublesome Companions. Lastly, I say, When it is considered the great Experience I have had of the bad Effects of the Methods now in use for the Cure of Venereal Infections, through a long Course of successful Practice in curing Fistulas and Piles, without cutting, or seldom using any outward Application, having plainly proved that Medicines applied outwardly are too often hurtful,
but

but always trifling, (never procuring an absolute Cure) the Cause being in the Blood, the Cure depends upon such Medicines as have regard to it. By my Method without Cutting (a few cases excepted) it is known I have and do succeed in the most deplorable Cases, but in those obstinate ones, proceeding from ill cured Venereal Injuries, by the baneful Practice, now in common Use. Can it deserve a Name, when the shocking Victims we daily see evince it. Fistulas of this kind (as observed before) often penetrate the Bladder, &c. &c. parts, that in such Cases admit of no Cure; Unhappy Creatures doom'd to a Life of the most miserable Kind. Numbers of these Victims have been under my Care, and several are at this Time receiving what Assistance I can give them, which at best is but Palliative in these destructive Cases. Perplexed with these Embarrassments, and struck with Compassion, was consequently the Product of the deepest Reflexions; the Result of which is the Medicine now offered to the Public, a safe and absolute Cure for Venereal Infections; consequently a preventive of those and the like shocking Cases as abovementioned, which Cases are not to be

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cured

cured, but prevented ; therefore the striking at the Cause, was discovering a more easy, and safe Method of curing the Venereal Disease ; this I have accomplished, and for which I suppose I am very soberly wished hang'd, as whatever is of general benefit, will in a different Manner, affect some particular Class. After the above Considerations it will not seem extraordinary (and perhaps may be allowed) that I had ample reason to reject the present Practice, a Practice so highly Detrimental to the Race of Mankind, that Children unborn will hereafter feel the Effects of it. — This by the Bye.

I now cannot help saying, I fear the bad Success that has too often attended Physicians and Surgeons Practice in the Cure of this Disease. I mean that Kind which is in common Use, and for which nothing can plead but Custom, tho' indeed that is respected by some as an undeniabla Law ; yet it is well known to be often grounded on Notions opposite to right reason, and this is verified in no instance more than in the present Method of treating Venereal Infections, to the ill success of which I repeat my

my Opinion, that we may impute the Number of Impositions the Public have, and do receive from those vile Pretenders to the Knowledge of the medical Art. I indeed proposed not to have touched on this matter, but Humanity, Brotherly-Love, and every Christian Sense requires it; the repeated Instances which I have of the Destruction that attends the unhappy Patients who apply for their Compositions (or more properly a Confusion of Drugs) would move the most obdurate Heart; and the more so as it principally happens among the poor working People, who when once robbed (by some one of these vile Miscreants) of both money and Constitution; drag on a Life with Infamy and Disgrace, falling at last a Sacrifice to the Disease, or rather to the Villains promised Remedies: It is almost incredible the Number of poor Creatures that apply to me after being with some of the Doctors, as they call themselves; but a more just Name is Devil in Man's Cloathing.

I now cannot help mentioning an Instance or two out of hundreds, that have occurred. Some time ago, a Man came to

me, desiring my Advice ; I asked him his Case, and he related it as follows : That about seven Years ago he perceived himself infected with a Clap ; on which he immediately applied to an eminent Surgeon in the City, who after about six Weeks, told him he was well, all the Symptoms being gone off, and in short he found himself so. But that two Months before he applied to me, he was attacked violently with a Pain in the Throat, and lower Jaw, but chiefly centered in one Tooth ; he was greatly alarmed, simply supposing it to be occasioned by a Remains of the Venereal Complaint, which he was cured of seven Years before, and accordingly lost no Time, but went immediately to one of the great Genius's in the *Old Baily*, who confirmed him in his Opinion, by saying those Symptoms were certain Marks of a universal Pox, and that it was highly necessary to preserve his Life to undergo a slight Salivation : the Man consented, and the Cure was set about ; in short, this poor deluded Man was kept in a Spitting State (by the Use of Mercurial Ointment and Pills) for six Weeks ; and then finding his Teeth, Mouth and Throat much the worse, with his Pocket two Guineas lighter,

lighter, he resolved to leave his Doctor in Hopes of finding some more easy Remedy; on hearing this Relation, after asking a few Questions, and looking in the Man's Mouth to discover this confirmed Pox, I really could not help Smiling, though at the same Time I pityed the Man, who further informed me, he was Journeyman to a Silk-Mercer in the City, and was fearful his Master would discover it, meaning the Pox, as he was ordered to eat no high seasoned Meats, &c. &c. I soon relieved him from his Anxiety, by assuring him, he was free from any Venereal Complaint, and that the Symptoms which he had undergone so severe a Pennance to be cured of, were no more than the common Attendants of a Cold, particularly where the Teeth were decayed, which was his Case; I therefore ordered him to have his Tooth immediately drawn, and take a Dose of Manna and Salts once or twice a Week to purge off the Mercury, which had been so injudiciously administered; he followed my Directions, and called on me in about ten Days (with repeated Thanks for my salutary Advice) telling me he had felt no Pain since the removal of the decayed Tooth, and was in great

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great Spirits to find his deplorable Disorder so soon removed. The next I shall mention is a Person that lives in *Holbourn*, who (as he informs me) finding himself attacked with the Venereal Disease, applied to a certain set of People who call themselves a Society of Physicians, &c. by *St. Dunstan's Church, Fleet-Street*, one of whom he saw, who gave him a Bottle of Drops that were soon to effect a Cure, the Dose Ten or Twelve; this Man continued them some time, but finding no Amendment, he increased the Dose to a Hundred, and a Hundred and Twenty, but found no Difference in the Effect: he now discovered a Swelling in his Groin, which terminated in a Buboe; he immediately applied to the Society, but saw only one, the same Person who had before given him the Drops, (and who by the bye, this Man informed me, he was told in the Neighbourhood was a Barber;) on his telling him of the Buboe, he, this pretended Physician, desired to see it, which was accordingly complied with; and without doubt was judiciously examined, as you will find by the Remedy, which was, after many significant Looks, pronounced to be Shoe-makers Wax, as a certain Cure for all

all Buboes; this grand Remedy was accordingly applied; but after a few Days, the poor Man perceiving the Disorder gain Strength, too late saw through the Fraud, and applied to me, who found him in this Situation, with his large Plaster of Shoemakers Wax, which covered almost the right Groin: I directly opened the Buboe, and in six Weeks dismissed him, well. A Third Case I cannot help mentioning, which, if possible, is a stronger Proof of the Ignorance of these Set of Men; which is this: A young Man, of about Twenty Years of Age, a Jeweller by Trade, called on me about Ten Days ago, in the Evening, desiring my Advice: He related his Complaint in this manner; That about five Weeks before, he had Reason to suppose he had contracted a Clap, but no Symptom appeared, nevertheless he went to the very wise Practitioner in the Cure of this Disorder, who lives in *Blue-Cross-Street, Leicester-Fields*, by whom he was told that he was infected, and it was an Infection of the * black Nature, he therefore had Medicines of course; but one Evening

* What this Man could Mean by an Infection of the Black Nature, I confess I am ignorant, only wish his Practice was no blacker than the Disease.

Evening as he was going home from his Doctor, unluckily he fell down and bruised his Knee, which before the next Evening was much swelled ; accordingly the Doctor was consulted, (without being informed of the Fall he had received the preceding Night) who on a thorough Examination, pronounced it a Venereal Swelling, and proposed his taking Pills for some Time, that he might intirely root it out. I really laughed heartily on hearing the Account, and the young Gentleman seemed highly pleased, that he had so well experienced his Doctor's Judgment, and was much more so when I assured him he had no Venereal Symptoms, nor had he been the least injured (except in the Mind) only by taking the Ignoramus's Medicines, which had reduced him in Flesh.

I have now given a few Instances of the Ignorance and Villainy of these People ; a Subject I always thought below my Pen ; and it is with some Reluctance I submit it to the Public Eye ; but my Intentions are not to please the Critic, but to serve my Fellow-creatures ; which I found I could no ways thoroughly accomplish, without giving some pre-

Precautions that may serve as Beacons to the Unthinking, and prevent their splitting on those fatal Rocks.

Therefore shall end this Subject with only a few Hints (more particularly) respecting such Persons or Companies, as they simply stile themselves, who endeavour to impose on the Public, and at the same Time hide their Persons. These Kind of Wretches ought to be shunned as the Fire of Death: In short, nothing can equal the Folly of those who risque their Health, by taking published Medicines, where the Authors are not known. Indeed, I have the more Reason to speak, as I have many Instances where such credulous Persons have had woeful Causes to repent it. The Motives for Authors concealing themselves, can never bear examining, which is often done under a Title of a Company of Physicians, Surgeons, &c. This is now become too common a cheat, and easily seen thro'. Pray was there ever a Physician or Surgeon ashamed of his Profession? Or is any honest Man afraid of his Practice being publicly known? On the Contrary, every Practitioner is endeavouring rather to extend the Knowledge of it. In a word, I

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don't believe any Gentleman, regularly educated in Physick, would be concerned in such Combinations: I say, I don't believe, for I have great Reason, having been informed these Companies consist chiefly of the lowest Mechanicks; which Informations I have Reason to believe to be just, by examining their Treatment of Patients, who as I before observed, have been afterwards under my Care. I conceive every Practitioner is accountable (by the Laws of his Country) for the Effects of his Medicine, in Cases where fatal Consequences ensue: but a set of Men, under such Colours, Practice, sell their Medicines, right or wrong, defy the Consequences, or in other Words, stab their Fellow-creatures in the Dark, without risking their Persons or Reputations.

That this Discourse may still be attended with more Benefit to the Public (by which if I should prove the Means of saving one of my Fellow-creatures from the Destruction that generally follows their Credulity, I am amply rewarded) I shall now take some Notice of a few particular published Medicines for the Cure of Venereal Infections,
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where the Authors are known: 1st, *Keyser's* Pills have been strongly recommended in the Pamphlet published for that Purpose, which gives an Account of their good Effects in a Number of Cases at *Paris*: the Author, Mr. *Keyser*, seems to confine the Cases to confirmed Poxes. Whether he proposed their being given on every Occasion, such as slight Claps, &c. I do not pretend to determine; but be this as it will, I verily believe, they are the best Preparation of Mercury offered to the Public, because they are the mildest; nevertheless they, as well as all other Preparations, where the Patient is not purged, certainly Occasion a sore Mouth and Gums; and if continued, a Spitting, with other Symptoms of a Salivation. 2d. *Hawkbee's* Pills are a Medicine I by no Means approve of; they are prepared from Mercury, and are much stronger than the former, therefore more pernicious; that they are a Preparation of Mercury, I am certain (though it is simply denied in the Advertisements since the Death of the Author, who always administered them as such) from their Effects; a recent Instance of which I had as follows; about

ten or twelve Days ago, a Person applied to me, who had a Clap on him that had been contracted a Week before, in which Time he had been taking *Hawksbee's* Pills; they had brought on a Spitting, with a violent swelled Face; and in short, every Symtom of an approaching Salivation: by these Means, as indeed is always the Case, where such Remedies are given, every Complaint was increased, particularly the Cordee, by the violent Inflammation of the Parts, and the Heat in the Blood, occasioned by the Mercury.

I immediately ordered a thin, cooling Regimen, and purged him every second or third Day, with Manna and Salts, till the Effects of the Mercury was pretty well gone; in which Time, indeed, the Disorder was nearly subdued: I then gave my Medicine for a Week, and dismissed him well; and, to make use of his own Words, "A severe Penance he had for his Folly." I am not ignorant, that a few Years since, these Pills were in great Reputation for curing this Disease: For my Part, I don't know what use they might be of in some Degrees of a Pox, when administered under the Care of the

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Author; but as to a Clap, instead of Use, they are of infinite Mischief.

Belloste's Pills have much the same Effect as these.

I shall next mention the Jesuits Drops. This Medicine, by the Successors of one *Walker*, who was a Printer in the *Old Baily*, is recommended for the Cure of all Weaknesses in both Sexes, as also all Symptoms of the Venereal Disease.

I would now ask every judicious Man, If any thing can possibly be so absurd; the very Means that must pox the Patient, is to cure him. I confess it has often been a Matter of Astonishment to me, that the Public could be imposed on in this Manner? as the very Recommendation is so ridiculous, that a Person with common Reason, without the least Knowledge of Medicine, must laugh at it.

Those other Drops, called by the same Name, which *Rock* on *Ludgate-hill* recommends in the same Manner, to cure all Weaknesses, Venereal Complaints, &c. the Stupidity of which Cant I have just mentioned,

tioned, nevertheless, shall observe, that if the Afflicted would but make the least Reflection or, (if not acquainted with the Town,) some Enquiry, they would soon trace these Kinds of People, from their Original, and discover their grand Impositions, and daring Impudence, to thus impose on (and what is worse) destroy the Health of Mankind: Pity it is, that our Legislature has never thought it worthy Notice to inflict a proper Punishment on those baneful Set of Men.

But to return to the Subject: This ridiculous Medicine, called Jesuits Drops, is nothing more than a Tincture taken out of Quincy's Dispensatory; made as follows:

Take Bals. Capiv. Gum Guaic. Oil of Sassafras, with Spirits of Wine, and digest together: What little Virtue this Medicine can have, is that of an Astringent; therefore when taken in a Clap, as directed, it must lessen the Discharge, by which the Patient will be poxed; or, at other Times, the Matter will be translated to the Testicles: Of this I have had many Instances: The same is observed by Mr. Wathen, Surgeon, in his Notes

Notes on this Disease: But let him speak for himself. " I have given a fair Trial " of the advertised Jesuits Drops, whose " Effects very nearly resemble those of Bal- " sam Capivi; but as administered by those " whose Property it is, generally produces " swelled Testicles, Buboes, and a con- " firmed Lues Venerea. Many Patients " who have taken that Medicine, have, at " different Times, applied to me (and I " doubt not others) in such Circumstances."

After what has been said, it must be evident to every unprejudiced Reader, that the Administering such supposed Remedies, must be attended with the most deplorable Consequences, for which no retaliation can possibly be made. And as the whole Nation, has long been shamefully deluded, and imposed on by such Means, I think every Author who writes on this Disease, is very culpable if he does not expose the Stupidity and Hurt of such vile Medicines.

For my Part, had I sufficient Abilities to Criticise, I would be far from taking Notice of Errors, purely, for the sake of shewing

shewing my Parts or Judgment; nor have I, I hope, so much ill-Nature to find fault upon no other Pretence than to make People uneasy; yet, I think it would be an unpardonable Crime, in any Person silently to permit pernicious Practices; for certainly People of Professions ought to look upon themselves as Servants to the Public; and should study, by all reasonable Means, to promote the common Good, since they are entrusted with whatever is dear to Mankind; it is not enough that they honestly discharge themselves of the confidence that is put in them, but they should also endeavour to preserve their different Sciences from the Tarnish of Craft, Bigotry, Avarice, Superstition, and Ignorance; by taking reason for their Guide, and judging without Partiality, or Prejudice; and a Man of Understanding, assisted by Experience, may, and will be as competent a Judge in those Matters as the most refined Genius: There is one Thing in the Knowledge of Physic, I am certain of, and that is, the clearer any one sees into the Nature and Cause of a Disorder, the less perplexed will be his Method of Cure.

C H A P. VIII.

Contains some particular Remarks.

IN the Course of Practice, I have had an almost incredible Number of Patients afflicted with the different Species of the Venereal Disease, so as to have become even to a Degree of being frightful Sights ; others left labouring under Gleets and the worst Weaknesses and Imbecilities : all these Complaints have been occasioned either by the rough Methods used in the Cure, or by a long Neglect in not applying to proper Persons for a Remedy. Some indeed, the latter Disorders, by a continued debauched Life, or what is still worse, and with shame be it spoken to Mankind, is that cursed and abominable Crime of Self-Pollution. (The Consequence and Cure of which, I shall mention anon.) However, from one, or perhaps all these Causes, they are left in the most wretched State, the Genital Parts being totally relaxed, having lost all Power. I now confess, I was not a little perplexed with these Cases, and it was much concern to me that I could not give my Patients the Assistance I would willingly have done. After some Time, and a Number of fruitless Trials, at last I was so happy to fix on a

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Medicine, which I have administered with amazing Success. This Remedy I never intended to have published, contriving it purposely for such Patients as were under my Care; but, as I just observed, finding it so extreamly certain in its Effects, imagined it must receive a general Welcome from the Public; and have since found those Imaginations were just. No lucrative View could be a Motive for doing it, (any more than I well knew it would consequently further establish my Reputation in the Cure of all Disorders relative to the Parts appropriated for Generation) As however high the Price may appear in respect to the Quantity, I declare, the Preparation is so Expensive, that in regard to the Profits arising from the bare Sale only, it would be very inconsiderable. This Medicine I have just published, under the Title of the *Restorative Remedy, or Cordial Drops*: These Drops are really Nature's Assistant, where she is giving way either from Debauches of different Kinds, or where the Decay is the Consequence of Age: in this Case they are found of infinite Service, as they almost incredibly remove those common Symptoms, which are known

known to attend approaching old Age, by which Life, though extended to the last Stage, is rendered much more comfortable.

In its Operation, 1st, It is a Cordial, and that of the highest and most singular Nature, by which it circulates the Juices, enlivens the Spirits, and recreates all the Faculties both of the Body and Mind. 2d, It dissipates all Kinds of Weaknesses and Imbecilities, restoring Strength and Vigour to a decayed Constitution. As it co-operates with Nature, without forcing the Vessels; so it even furnishes Matter, as well as quickens Desires: in short, it never fails to excite conjugal Intercourses where the Constitution by any Misfortunes or Irregularities has fallen into a Coldness, Indifference, or total Inability to those Acts: even *Age* is not exempt from the Assistance of this Remedy, to that Degree, that the most Credulous would scarce credit the Report, and yet this is a Fact confirmed by a great Number of Instances. 3d, It is in the strictest Sense, Nature's Help and Support, by what Means soever injured; it warms, comforts and nourishes the whole Vital System. There-

fore may with the greatest Certainty and Safety be depended on, for having these Effects, which are not effected by any Stimulating Power, too often the Case of Medicines ignorantly and vilely administered, to provoke Lust ; the Consequences of which have proved of fatal Effects ; for indeed, is it possible for such Medicines ever to give Power, though sometimes they excite Desires ; but even to accomplish that, it requires the greatest Care to fix the Dose, and if often used (which I think none but Mad-men will do) destroys all those Parts that it principally acts upon.

But to return to the Subject : this Medicine has not only given the most incontestible Proofs of being the greatest Restorative in Nature, but has actually removed the attendant Causes on Sterility or Barrenness in one Sex, and Impotency in the other, by recovering the Use of the natural Means for Propagation. I have received a Number of Letters of Thanks from many Families that have (unexpectedly) found these wonderful Effects. For, most undoubtedly, nothing is so interesting to Mankind as the recovering

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ing the Powers of this Kind, &c. No State being so miserable as a *State of Inability*, respecting conjugal Acts ; and on the other Hand, the want of Children, (even where every other Blessing is enjoyed) is an Affliction of a very peculiar Nature, which none but those so circumstanced can possibly judge of ; as indeed there is some Reason to fear there are often severe Reflections in the Marriage State, on that Account. Also, in all Cases where floughly and cold Humours have clogged the Reins and Genital Parts (which I have found to be the Cause of Impotency in the Male, and Sterility in the Female) which occasions many other Mischiefs, this Medicine is of great Service, by freeing the Parts from the Obstructions and renewing the Natural Strength.

As I just mentioned the Efficacy of this Remedy in those Complaints brought on by that unnatural Crime of Self-Pollution, I shall now take some Notice of it ; and First then as to the Cause or Means of that Act, I imagine few Readers will be Ignorant which way it is accomplished ; but those that are, if it is in my Power, shall
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continue so; for I am of Opinion, that noticing to the World, there are such Things to be heard, seen, or felt, is done always with an Intent to raise the Curiosity, that they may be Partakers of those Events; but a stronger Motive, I fear too often prevails, which is the Informer's private Emolument. But I would be understood to mean particular Circumstances.

I remember, as long ago as the Year 1756, a book was published, called *Onania*; but the Author for Reasons, best known to himself, took care to conceal his Name: This Performance was allowed not only by the Faculty, but by every judicious Person, to be an immodest, ridiculous and scandalous Publication: and I well remember a Gentleman (now in a very considerable Employment) telling me one Evening, as we were talking of it at a Coffee-House, that if it was possible at an Expence of ten Thousand Pounds, he would bring the Author to severe Punishment; and at the same time lamented, that our Laws would not affect him. After a little Pause, he told me the Reason of his high Displeasure, as follows; that the third or fourth Day after this Book was Published, he was walking gently

ly up Stairs, but was suddenly alarmed at hearing his two Daughters in a loud Fit of Laughter; he accordingly hastily opened the Door, and saw the Eldest with this Book in her Hand, and the other in no very decent Posture. Shocked at these Circumstances, he took the Book from them, with a severe Reprimand; and now declared, once again, he had rather have given half his Fortune (not having been himself since) than such an Affair should have happened. There can be no Manner of Doubt but a Number of similar Instances have been produced through the Publication of such an Obscene, and in short, vile Discourse. Surely the good Man might have published his Remedies for the Relief of Complaints occasioned by that worst of Crimes, (which by the Bye, though I have known several of the Faculty, as well as myself, who have given all his Medicines a fair Trial, yet could find none of those good Effects he vainly and emptily talks of, without any Reason) without introducing such Letters as I will venture to affirm where never before seen in Print. This calls to my Mind, that recent Instance we had so much despised by the World, of the

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Rev. Mr. Kidgell's Publication of his exceedingly Profane *Essay on Woman*, supposed to be wrote by Mr. Wilkes; and what in all probability might have been buried in Oblivion, had not this careful Collector of choice Manuscripts obliged the World with them. I at this Instant recollect a few Lines inserted in one of the Daily-Papers, and as I think they are well adapted, shall offer them to the Reader for his Opinion.

“ *O Grief of Griefs, the Parson cries,*
 “ *Blaspheming Words to write;*
 “ *O Grief of Griefs, the People cry,*
 “ *To bring such Words to Light.*

After all, I do not pretend to determine whether I am right in my Opinion or not, as I only offer what I have said as indigested Thoughts: Therefore to return to the Subject; I shall just mention those common Symptoms which are occasioned by that damnable Habit, called Self-Pollution. 1st. The Person becomes feeble, has frequent Pains in his Head and Back, also in the Groin and Testicles, the Seminal Vessels by being strained, soon become relax'd; the Seed coming away

away with little or no Provocation ; or even on using much Exercise, and sometimes on going to stool. 2d. To these may be added, that the afflicted has seldom any Erection of the Penis, but when he has, it is of very short Duration, and even then very weak, so as not to answer the Intentions of Nature. 3d. After these Symptoms, or others of the like Nature, have continued some Time, they frequently bring on a Hectic State, which ends in a total Decline.

It is true there are a Number more Complaints occasioned by the above Practice; but these are enough to inform the Patient of the Cause, where he knows himself guilty; and as to others it could be of no Use if five Hundred were named. Now as to a Remedy, I sincerely aver the *Restorative Drops* (often mentioned) have succeeded in almost all these Cases where a fair Trial has been given ; and would the Nature of the Complaints allow of it, could refer any Person to a Number, who either by Person or Letter have declared themselves absolutely recovered, (but give me leave to observe, that except the grand Cause is entirely ab-

stained from, this, nor any other Remedy, will effect a Cure) but where it has in some Measure failed, or the Person's Patience did not well hold out, I have assisted its Efforts by adding other Medicines, which in some Constitutions has been done with Advantage. In short, honestly speaking, I have had no Instances but where I have given great Relief, and indeed very few but where I have thoroughly recovered them.

C H A P. IX.

CAREFUL Observations of the Successes and Miscarriages attending an extensive Practice, are certainly the only Means of arriving at any Degree of Certainty, in the curative Part of Physic; and a rational Theory, accompanied by the Knowledge thus acquired, must make the System of Medicine the most Perfect and Valuable. A Practitioner, without Theory, not understanding the Laws of the Animal Oeconomy, must be a Stranger to the Changes introduced into the Constitution by Diseases: he not being able to form a Method of Cure;

Cure ; neither can he Account for the Operation of his Remedies, or to what End they were prescribed ; and the Theorist, for want of Practice to confirm his Speculations, will be often perplexed, and go astray : tho' he can project a methodical Scheme of Cure, according to the Forms and Rules laid down by Authors, yet its Success can only be warranted from Experience ; this makes him acquainted with a Set of Medicines that can be relied on, as also enables him to discover the Nature and the Cause, and to comprehend the Symptoms and Events of Diseases with Perspicuity and Judgment.

Where these Matters have been properly attended to, great Discoveries in the Medical Art have been made : and I make no doubt but many more which have never been publickly known, owing to the Author's Fear of being branded with the Name of Quack or Secret Hunter, and one that is endeavouring to impose on Mankind ; alas ! to what a low Ebb must the noblest of all Arts be sunk ! (that Art which was handed down from God himself) labouring under this

abominable Bondage, that the regular Practitioner, who has been instructed in his Profession at a large Expence, joined to a long Series of Years, taken up in Application and Study, gone through with much Pains and Labour — should be after all obliged to confine himself to the general Opinion of other Men, (many of whom, Pack-Horse like, travel on in the common Path, though attended with much Difficulty, and often to the greatest Prejudice to Mankind) or suffer the before-mentioned Reproach. And why all this? I could never see any other Reasons than because a Number of illiterate ignorant Fellows tell the World they have Medicines that will cure this or that Disorder, which is in the Power of every Shoe-black to affirm, therefore (according to the too often, and I may add simply received Opinion) it must follow that every Person though ever so well accomplished, must (by capricious Cavillers and ignorant Churls) in some Degree be loaded with vile Insinuations: but it may be worth Notice, that this generally comes from evil Minds, who are always much affected to see another more eminently useful than themselves: It is well known to the Gentlemen

lemen of the Faculty, the many Improvements and Discoveries that have been made in Surgery, not only in the Treatment of Wounds, and the reducing of Fractures and Dislocations, but in the most capital Operations, those that were a Century ago performed with much Difficulty and Danger, are now accomplished in half the Time with greater ease, and much less Risk to the Patient's Life. Respecting Physic, they have been no less successful in discovering the most valuable Remedies. Many have been known to the world, and I fear the before-mentioned Reasons may have prevented others from being made known; for tho' the Gentlemen who may have Invented such Medicines, and Administered them in private Practice, yet they cannot be attended with that general Service as if made Public; for my Part, I could never see the Impropriety of acquainting Mankind that I had a peculiar Remedy for this, or that Disorder; nor can I conceive the Difference between giving this Information by Advertisement, or in a Book; surely it is one and the same Thing. And yet, that this has, and is frequently done, by the greatest Authors, is a known

known Fact, some quite conceal their Methods, and others deliver them in such an obscure Manner that they confine the Practice to themselves. However, from what I have now said, I would not have it thought that I am speaking on my own Account ; for I declare it is a Matter of Indifference to me, whether I ever have another Advertisement inserted, respecting any Medicine ; on the other Hand, I must advance, that it is my Opinion, where Medical Discoveries are made, founded on Reason and Experience, and the Authors Publickly known to be Men of Conduct and Judgment in their Profession, it must be the more beneficial, as it is the more known to the World. But then it may be answered, what has a News-Paper to do with it, a valuable Remedy will make itself known, particularly when assisted by the Circle of an Acquaintance ? But however plausible this may seem, I must beg leave to say, let any Thing appear new, no Matter how good the Invention, and there will immediately raise up crouds of strong Opponents, many of which I fear find Fault not through the best of Motives ; others do it for want of taking Reason for their Guide;

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orare Bigots to their own Ways; long ingrafted in them, and therefore endeavour to find Faults where there are none, merely for the sake of doing so, or to appear Men of Parts. And Lastly, Another Sort may blame the Authors, because they want Sense to judge of the Goodness of the Remedy, and the Nature of the Disease. The same has been observed by the greatest of Men, as you will see by the following Quotation.

This calls to my Mind the Words of an Antient but Valuable Author. " Although
 " my new Method may seem strange to
 " some, it can be only to such as believe
 " that no-body knows more than them-
 " selves; who think, that the Universality
 " of all Learning is locked up within their
 " Microcosm; and that if they be igno-
 " rant of it, so must all the rest of the
 " World besides: such there are in the
 " World, and from such I can expect no-
 " thing but Slander and Calumny: But
 " the best is, it is not my Portion alone,
 " therein I am a Companion for the best of
 " Men. It was always the Fate of the
 " first Authors of any Invention (though
 " never

" never so good) to meet with Opproby
 " and Contempt ; and I know no Reason
 " why I alone should be exempt from the
 " common Destiny, or general Fate. Those
 " Persons are such as envy Glory to all ex-
 " cept themselves ; and generally their
 " Malice arises (not from the Matter in-
 " vented, for that they greedily covet but)
 " because of the Person inventing ; and as
 " they were not the Original of it, or cannot
 " obtain the Glory, therefore it is either
 " false, incongruous, unnecessary or im-
 " possible ; or if the Matter be too laud-
 " able to be branded with such Epithets,
 " the Fate of that great and worthy Man,
 " Dr. *Hervey*, about the Circulation of the
 " Blood, is unavoidable, viz. that it is an
 " old Thing, they knew as much before,
 " *Hypocrates* and *Galen* found it out, it is
 " in such a Book, such a Chapter, such an
 " Aphorism ; although the Words by them
 " there cited, contain no more a Discovery
 " of the Thing in dispute, (though strained
 " by all the Tropes and Figures of Rheto-
 " ric) than the Alcoran does of the Bible."

Dr.

Dr. Cockburn observes, (speaking of the Reproach every Person is subject to that offers a new Discovery to the World)

" Discoveries are most commonly attended with the Murmurings and Approaches of envious People; who load Inventors with Calumny, instead of returning them Thanks: Indeed, the great Occasion of Scandal is the Goodness of the Invention; and that it may bring a Reputation to its Author: So dangerous it is for a Physician to contrive any Thing useful to Mankind, that it unavoidably subjects him to the Hatred of many others of his Brethren, who restlessly pursue him with Calumny and Scandal, if not the Invention itself.

I shall next give you the Opinion of two eminent French Physicians, who were revered for their knowledge in their Profession, not only in their own Country but through all Europe.

Dr. Boudin writes thus:

" I always look'd upon two Things as the
P " prin-

" principal Obſtacles to the Progress of Phy-
 " ſic; the one is the general Fondneſs Men
 " have for Systems, which oblige young Phy-
 " ſicians to ſpend a great deal of Time, that
 " might be better beſtowed in making uſe-
 " ful Obſervations, and fill their Imagina-
 " tions with well contrived Fables—but of
 " no uſe towards the Cure of their Patients,
 " which ought to be the chief and only End
 " of all their Studies and Labours; the other
 " is not only their Neglect of, but likewife
 " their Dislike and Repugnance both to the
 " Search of new Remedies, and to the Appli-
 " cation to them in their Practices, when-
 " ever they have been discovered by others
 " more courageous and diligent than they.
 " — *Hippocrates* has rejected all Systems as
 " uſeless, that he might the better apply him-
 " ſelf to Obſervations, and the Study of pro-
 " per Medicines."

Dr. *Chirac*, ſays, " The Cure of the
 " Venereal Disease is liable to ſo many In-
 " conveniences from the insufficiency of
 " the greatest Part of thoſe who undertake
 " it, and by Reaſon of the grievous ſuffer-
 " ings they expose their Patients to, who
 follow

" follow their old Method of curing ; as
 " also because the Time it requires to per-
 " form it is so long, and a Patient with-
 " drawing himself for the Space of Forty
 " or Fifty Days, during which Time he
 " must keep his Chamber, is so trouble-
 " some, and often so suspicious, especially
 " for Persons, whose Station obliges them
 " to have a more than Ordinary regard for
 " their Reputation, that we never can suf-
 " ficiently applaud those, who have spent
 " their Time and Labour in the Discovery
 " and Improvement of such Remedies as
 " can thoroughly cure those, who are af-
 " flicted with it, and free them from all the
 " Inconveniences and Disorder that attend
 " the ordinary Way of curing it."

The Arguments used against particular Medicines, in some Measure are founded on Reason, and the Use of them is frequently termed imperical Practice: there is no Manner of Doubt but much Hurt has attended such Medicines that have been indiscriminately administered by ignorant People, and indeed for the most Part are Compositions, jumbled together between the Person who

has the Sale of them, and some little Dabler in Physic. Nevertheless, that Remedies are contrived, that have been taken with great Success is beyond a Doubt: Dr. James's Fever Powder has given many Instances of this, and I verily believe has been of much Benefit to Mankind; notwithstanding, I acknowledge, such Medicines labour under many Disadvantages by often not being under the Author's Directions: and yet these powerful Remedies will succeed, and in many Cases where others have failed; without saying more, that noble Medicine the *Peruvian Bark*, gives us ample Proofs of this, which even when administered by the most illiterate People, will still produce its grand Effects. As to the Venereal Disease, which is the Subject of this *Essay*, I must observe, there is a peculiar Advantage that attends the Cure of it, which is this, That as it always proceeds from One and the same Cause, (only differently seated) so may it be cured by one and the same Remedy. I speak as to the Venereal Poison; for if any Weakness remains after that is expelled, Corroberants take Place of Course. There is Reason to suppose many of the Faculty in this

this Metropolis must have found out some favourite Medicine, which they in their Practice chiefly rely on for particular Disorders, and is what remains a Nostrum or Secret in their own Breast, which (provided the Medicine is a valuable one) is like putting the lighted Candle under a Bushel. As it is confined to the narrow Bounds of their Practice.

Scire tuum nihil est nisi te scire hoc sciat Alter.

PERS.

A Man's Knowledge is worth nothing without he communicates it to the World; for Science is not Science till revealed.

But to proceed; I am therefore of the Opinion that every Person who has Invented any Remedy that may be serviceable to his Fellow-creatures, cannot discharge his Duty either to God or them, if he does not either discover the Medicine, or offer it for their good, which must tend to his own Emolument.

If it is empirical Practice to inform the World, you have a new Method, or a new Medicine for such and such Complaints,

Then

Then half the greatest Authors that ever wrote, are Empiricks. But for Brevity's Sake, shall only mention two Moderns.

Mr. *James Handley*, Surgeon, informs us of a Nostrum or Secret he was possessed of, which cured the Rheumatism in a very remarkable Manner, but does not declare the Remedy. These are his own Words, " In the Rheumatism, particularly, I can, and frequently in my Practice do, give a certain Medicine which so encounters the Disease, and assists Nature, that with Purging once or twice, at most, and Bleeding but once, and sometimes neither of them, the Patient though he cannot stand nor feed himself, and used to lay by for it twelve or sixteen Weeks together, yet shall be able in a Week, ten Days, or a Fortnight at most, and sometimes in less Time, to go about his Business: the swelling of his Joints, and Pain, being gone clear off: or if it sometimes happens that the Tumours do not go immediately away, yet the Pain shall vanish, and the Patient be at ease; and all this by the Power of an Alterative, and without any Mer-

“ Mercurial Preparations whatever; and
 “ the Medicine to be taken, is but the
 “ Quantity of two Spoonfuls twice a Day.

However extraordinary the Effects of this Medicine may appear, the Author's Character and Abilities in his Profession, put it out of the Power of censorious Persons to hurt or deprecate his Assertions. This Gentleman, as an Author, was in the greatest Esteem; he wrote his Mechanical Essays on the Animal Oeconomy, A. D. 1721. A Book that acquired the greatest Applause: In the Year 1733, he published his Colloquia Chirurgica, or the Art of Surgery: this Book was found no less acceptable, being a Work calculated for young Surgeons. After giving such Proofs of his superior Knowledge in his Profession, I suppose he won't be called a Quack, because he recommends a Medicine for the Rheumatism, which he had proved to do more than any other had done.

Dr. Robertson observes, treating on Fluxes, after recommending some Remedies, “ But
 “ in Case all these Medicines fail of Suc-
 “ cess,

" cess, and the Flux still continues to afflict
 " the Patient, and threaten him with immi-
 " nent Death, is there no other Hopes, no
 " Anchor whereon the unhappy Patient
 " may repose his Distress, no Specific that
 " may give respite to his Dolors? Yes;
 " we are told by Dr. Cockburn, in his Tre-
 " atise on Fluxes, that he enjoys the Favour
 " of a Specific that will cure all Manner
 " of Fluxes, under the most distracting
 " Symptoms. But no Distress of Mankind
 " could ever yet prevail with that Gentle-
 " man to open his tender Heart, and dis-
 " cover his Secret to the World. And he
 might have added, that the Public was also
 debarred the Use of this excellent Remedy
 by not knowing where to apply for it, which
 undoubtedly was attended with the same
 ill Consequences.

It is a Misfortune, and what is peculiar
 to this Notion, that it is impossible to offer
 the least Discovery, or indeed an Improve-
 ment, without immediately meeting with the
 strongest Oppositions. And it is now be-
 come so fashionable, that these kind of Op-
 posites, may say with the Poet,

Video

*Video meliora proboque
Deteriora Sequor.*

OVID.

*I see the Right, and I approve it too;
Condemn the Wrong, and yet the Wrong pursue.*

Such Persons as have been properly Educated to Physic, and have continually a Number of Patients under their Care (more particularly when chiefly confined to one Disorder) must either sleep away their Time, or be Men of no Kind of Reflection, or else will make such Discoveries as will redound to their Reputation and the Public Good.

We see in the Medical Observations and Inquiries, by a Body of Physicians in London, a Number of well authenticated Discoveries, transmitted to them from different Parts of the World. The hearing of which to all good Men gives the greatest Joy and pleasing Satisfaction; but from bad Men, where that gnawing Worm of Envy is kept alive, nothing can be expected but Hatred, Malice, and the worst of Reflections. I conclude this *Essay*, and let my Brethren of

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the

the Profession ; let the sensible Man, or Critic ; let those that are diseased, or not Diseased ; let the Just or Unjust ; in one Word, let the whole World peruse this Discourse, and I solemnly declare I can convey my Motive for this Publication, with the strictest Truth, by these Words,

Mens sibi conscientia recti.

A good Intention.

F I N I S.